

Hafa Adai!

SBDC's Vibrant Trade Show draws over 300. **PAGE 2**

DPS reports zero fatalities during holiday season. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 70

www.saipantribune.com

MONDAY APRIL 8, 2024

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Palacios: It's time to put a finality

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios disclosed on Wednesday that Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC recently submitted a settlement offer to his office, but that he has doubts its legitimacy.

- » **Governor discloses that IPI made \$15M offer, but he doubts its legitimacy**
- » **IPI, CCC still negotiating stipulated agreement regarding settlement deal**

Palacios is also hoping that by tomorrow, Tuesday, the CCC board would make a decision one way or another whether to

See **FINALITY** on Page 4



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

The Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan is shown in this file photo.

Palacios sends expression of support, offers assistance to Taiwan

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has expressed support and offered assistance to Taiwan in its time of need in the wake of a devastating 7.2-magnitude earthquake that struck the eastern side of Taiwan.

Palacios sent a letter on Thursday to Taiwan president Tsai Ing-wen, stating that in this spirit of international cooperation and friendship, the CNMI wish-

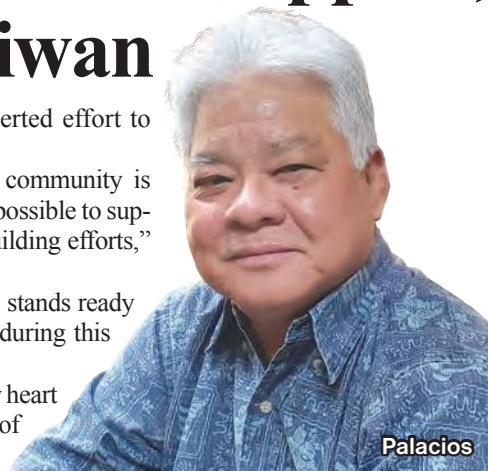
es to be part of the concerted effort to support Taiwan.

"Please know that our community is ready to assist in any way possible to support the recovery and rebuilding efforts," the governor said.

Palacios said the CNMI stands ready in solidarity with Taiwan during this challenging time.

He said it is with a heavy heart that they received news of

See **TAIWAN** on Page 4



Palacios

Petition to lower price of United's Saipan-Guam flight launched

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 1,300 members of the CNMI community have signed a petition that was launched last week demanding that something be done about the prices United Airlines currently charges travelers from Saipan flying to Guam.

It's no secret that United Airlines charges CNMI residents traveling to Guam upwards of \$300, which is steep considering it's a 25-minute flight.

This has long been an issue—especially for members of the community who are in need of medical treatment—and it seems members of the CNMI community are finally taking a stand.

Last Thursday, CNMI resident Glen Hunter initiated an online petition demanding United Airlines, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, U.S. Department of Transportation, and the Department of Justice do something about these hefty ticket prices. As of press time, 1,358 people

See **PETITION** on Page 4

IPI's second motion for TRO denied

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David. O. Carter has denied Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's second motion for a temporary restraining order to stay the

See **IPI** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

On Thursday, April 11, the Office of the Governor's Climate Policy & Planning Program invites community members to a presentation of the CNMI's preliminary greenhouse gas inventory and proposed priority measures to reduce GHG emissions.

PAGE 5



LOCAL

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like to recognize its hardworking and supportive school leaders. Thank you to our vice principals Karen Manuel and Benjamin Seman for all their hard work and dedication for our students, their families, faculty and staff.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher say they filed for divorce last year after more than 20 years together. The English "Borat" star and the Australian "Wedding Crashers" actor who married in 2010 announced their split Friday in joint Instagram posts that showed them together in tennis outfits.

PAGE 11



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440

FAX: 235-3740

EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

SBDC's Vibrant Trade Show draws over 300



CHRYSTAL MARINO

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network team smiles for a photo just before their Vibrant Trade Show last Thursday, April 4, at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Over 300 community members packed the CNMI Small Business Development Center Network's Vibrant Trade Show last Thursday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

As a part of the SBDC's 2024 Friend of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition, the trade show featured 20 vendors, namely Angil Design, AP Group, Bank of Hawaii, CNMI Department of Labor Workforce Investment Agency, CNMI Office of

Broadband Policy and Development, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Docomo Pacific, First Hawaiian Bank, Island Training Solutions, *Marianas Variety*, Marianas Visitors Authority, Nonstop Corp., Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Saipan Computer Services, Stemify CNMI, SuperTech/White Coconut, TrueBeep, TurnKey Solutions, and Xerox Corp.

The trade show focused on the theme of the summit which was cyber technology

and gave community members the opportunity to explore and learn more about the latest tools and resources available in the cyber world, especially as society continues to thrust into the digital age. Along with the learning experiences, the event featured an amazing raffle and entertainment from the Marianas Got Talent singers.

SBDC Network director Nadine Deleon Guerrero said the event was a great success and because they were packed to full capacity, they had to turn some folks away for the morning sessions, but invited

the rest of the crowd to join the Vibrant Trade Show that was open to the general public.

She shared that aside from the 20 vendors, there were 150 pre-registered attendees, but based on the registration notes including the ones collected at the door, they can say over around 300 people showed up.

"Looking forward to those numbers at the end of the day to see just how much interest was generated through this event. It took months and months of planning. I cannot tell you how much coordination that required."

Guerrero extended her thanks to not only the participants, but also the vendors and businesses who participated in the trade show.

"They made the time to make the event today happen, and so for that, we're very, very thankful. Months and months of planning, and watching the event finally happened and now that it's almost over. We are so happy with the turnout. I feel like it was a successful event, and I'm looking forward to next year because I feel like it's going to be even bigger. So yeah, thank you for everyone who came out and supported. We

hope it was worth your while."

When asked about the theme, Guerrero shared, "I feel like we're kind of moving into the digital age, and as the Small Business Development Center, we feel technology is such a big part of someone's small business. Cyber security is such a big thing now. I feel like we're a little bit late into the game when it comes to cyber security, but the important part is we're addressing it now, and that we have local businesses that can support this type of service. So that's what today was about. It was letting people know how important cyber security is. We have the businesses here on island that can help you with that, and check the SBDC for any one-on-one counseling that you might need in terms of technology, wanting to start a small business within technology, and we're here to help whichever way we can."

One of the presenters of the 2024 Friends of Business Summit: Cybertech Edition was Nathan Benson, CEO of locally based TrueBeep. The startup is an AI marketing team solution for small businesses.

He shared that his team attended the event to not only talk about TrueBeep, but also about AI and the impact it's having on the business community and he was encouraged with the reception from the audience.

"It was really good. We had a really good mix in the audience. We even had government officials there. We had

small businesses there. We even had some larger businesses present. All coming together to talk about technology, AI, and the impact it's having on our business community. And so, it was a really good discussion."

Benson said events like these are important. "I think, if anything, we need to be doing more events like this because there's so many people within our community with different skills and different ideas. And bringing everybody coming together helps to generate ideas and generate opportunities. It also helps us prepare for changes like AI and risks like cybersecurity threats."

One of the attendees, Grant Iderbei from Tanapag, said the event was a great learning opportunity.

"We've got a bunch of different industries here. They're promoting some really good stuff. And just like SBDC said, we're moving up in the CNMI. It's moving into its digital age transformation. I guess everybody on Saipan should get updated with all the new techs. And, you know, trend up to the speed of light."

He added that to level up, it was necessary to push the community up to date with the high-tech world.

"Compared to the U.S., they are already up to date with their innovations. And we're just a few steps behind. And I guess if you were to match up to what's actually going around the world, life would be easier, especially here on the island."

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is celebrating

HERITAGE WEEK

APRIL 8 - APRIL 14

CROWNE PLAZA
AN IHG HOTEL
RESORT SAIPAN



Receive a complimentary mini apigigi or guyuria treat when you purchase a coffee
Daily, 7am - 10am



Local-themed lunch buffet
Monday - Saturday, 11am - 2pm
Local-themed Sunday Brunch
Sunday, 11am - 2pm



Experience culture with our
Ataari Dinner Show
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 6pm - 8pm



CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Telephone 670 234 6412 | Website saipan.crowneplaza.com



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp



Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby give notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 8 a.m. on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/13/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson's Report
- VII. Director's Report
 1. Financial Report
- VIII. Investigator's Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor's Office
 - B. Legislature
 1. Letter from EAGI Chairwoman, Senator Celina R. Babauta Re Senate Confirmation Hearing for Dr. Martin Rohringer
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting

DPS reports zero fatalities during holiday season

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety reported that during last year’s holiday season, zero fatalities were reported which is unheard of nationwide.

Last Wednesday, DPS Highway Patrol division held a press briefing to share its 4D’s (Drunk, Drugged, Distracted, and Drowsy) campaign after-action report.

According to the report, during the holiday season—the time of year when DPS carries out its 4D campaign—DPS received zero fatality reports.

“The best part is we had zero fatalities. Nationwide, during the holiday season, statistics are collected, and it shows that fatalities increase during the holidays. For the CNMI to zero that [stat] out, that is a major achievement,” said Highway Patrol division Sgt. Adrian Mendiola.

In addition, DPS Highway Patrol reported that only two Driving Under the Influence, or DUI, cases were reported during last holiday season.

“Two DUIs during the

holiday season is amazing. It’s a very good number,” said Mendiola.

Meanwhile, DPS Highway Patrol said as part of its 4D campaign, 27 checkpoints were set up throughout the holiday season and only 202 citations were given out.

“There was a wide range of violations; 44 seatbelt violations, six car seat violations, those are the ones that stand out. The highest number of citations were given for seatbelt and car seat violations,” he said.

“It was a busy time out there during the holiday season and I commend the officers who were part of this operations. We sacrificed our holidays and worked long hours to keep the roads safe. However, we can’t take full credit for that, we thank the public as well,” Mendiola said.

Mendiola noted that the Highway Patrol division is expecting to carry out a similar plan for upcoming holidays like July 4.

The Highway Patrol division’s strategic plan, also known as its 4D campaign, for the year 2023 ultimately aimed to reduce the number of

fatalities and serious injuries on the highway.

The Highway Patrol’s plan focused on three main components; public outreach, public education, and enforcement.

First, the division conducted public outreach through radio talk shows and media commercials.

“This approach created an interactive forum for the radio audience, allowing them to engage in discussions about highway safety. by raising awareness and providing information on safe driving practices, the division aimed to educate and inform the pub-

lic about the importance of responsible driving and the dangers of driving impaired and distracted,” said Mendiola.

Additionally, the Highway Patrol division organized school presentations targeting various highschooler senior classes.

“The objective was to educate young drivers about the dangers of impaired and distracted driving. By delivering informative presentations, the Division aimed to instill safe driving habits and encourage responsible behavior among young drivers,” said Mendiola.

Lastly, the division focused on enforcement by setting up a series of sobriety check points and speed enforcements at

various locations.

“This approach aimed to deter and detect impaired driving, ensuring that the drivers were not under the influence of alcohol or drugs while on the roadway. through our statistic we found that the majority of the operators that were speeding over the posted speed limit were found to be under the influence of alcohol,” said Mendiola.

In addition, the Highway Patrol division kept up one of its yearly traditions to provide a free and safe ride home using the “SAFE RIDE” program.

“The program offers another option and source of transportation to the traveling public who plan to consume


alcohol during the holiday season. this program has proven effective and the number of publics who avail to this program has been increasing. Through the implementation of these strategies, the Highway Patrol division achieved significant accomplishments in the mission to reduce fatalities and serious injuries on the highway in 2023,” Mendiola said.

ARMATECH



Parking Management System Installer

Tel: (670) 234-8895 | Email: armatech.saipan@gmail.com
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.net
Tels: (670) 234-9447 / 234-6866 / 234-7670 • Fax: (670) 234-9021

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE

NMHC hereby publicly discloses that on January 22, 2024, Judy I. Arriola, an immediate family member of Jonathan I. Arriola of NMHC, applied for assistance under the HOME Program.


Said applicant has been determined to be a member of a group or class of low-income persons intended to be beneficiaries of the assisted activity and is applying to receive generally the same benefits being made available to the group or class. Mr. Jonathan I. Arriola is not and shall not be involved in the handling of this loan application.

NMHC discloses this possible conflict pursuant to 24 CFR 92.356 in order to allow any interested persons to comment before the application is considered for an exception under the applicable HOME Program conflict regulations. Any comments should be submitted to NMHC on or before April 22, 2024.

Dated this 4th day of April, 2024.

/S/JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

“NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency”

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 11925 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor’s Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (11/29/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson’s Report
- VII. Director’s Report
 - A. Financial Report
 - B. Online Payment – Localgov
 - C. Ad Hoc Committee to Review and Update Board Regulations for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects
- VIII. Investigator’s Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor’s Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
 - A. NCARB 2024 Annual Business Meeting – Paid and Voting Delegates
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting



**link**

The most affordable bundle in the Marianas!

MOBILE + HOME INTERNET
for as low as
\$105/mo.

*All these, **FREE** when you bundle with iPhone 15 today!*

**FIRST 2 MONTHS**
of Home Internet service

**SuperPod AX**

**Basic Installation**

**\$50 Port-in Credit**
*towards first month's billing**



670-488-CARE | docomopacific.com
*Additional conditions may apply.

docomo pacific
Better Together

Scan to learn more.

NMC seeks TRO and permanent injunction vs. Zajradhara

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Persona non grata Zaji Zajradhara, known for filing numerous suits against various local businesses on the grounds of discrimination, has met his match with the Northern Marianas College who has recently filed a complaint and motion for temporary restraining order alleging Zajradhara harassed Small Business Development Cen-

ter employees for years.

Last April 1, NMC, through attorney Mark Scoggins, filed for a temporary restraining order and permanent injunction against Zajradhara for harassing SBDC employees since 2022.

Specifically, NMC wants the court to prohibit Zajradhara from communicating with the SBDC or its employees by any method and for any reason, and from coming within 500 yards of

the SBDC or any of its events.

In addition, NMC is suing Zajradhara in Superior Court for undetermined damages to be proven at trial.

The reason NMC has taken legal action against Zajradhara, the lawsuit said, is because SBDC and its employees have suffered emotional injury due to his conduct, damage to their reputations, and have been forced to spend an inordinate amount of time and energy dealing with his abusive and

harassing conduct.

According to the lawsuit, Scoggins explains that Zajradhara, for years, has tried to extract funds from entities by accusing them of discrimination.

"Zajradhara is an individual who, over the last 10 or 12 years, has tried to make a living by falsely accusing entities of discrimination or retaliation, and then extracting settlements. Zajradhara's fraudulent practices have become so prolific and pernicious that

in 2019 the CNMI House of Representatives passed a House Resolution (H.R. 21-5) declaring Mr. Zajradhara 'persona non grata' due to his 'ill-intended schemes in extracting funds from various businesses,'" Scoggins said.

Then, in 2022, he targeted SBDC, an entity under NMC.

The lawsuit argues that Zajradhara claimed to be the owner of one or more small businesses and began demanding that the SBDC provide services to him.

"This included demands for services that the SBDC does not provide to anyone,

or otherwise were demands for non-specific services that the employees of the SBDC had difficulty understanding," Scoggins said.

However, when the SBDC tried to inform Zajradhara that they could not provide the services he was demanding, he allegedly became abusive with the employees, sometimes yelling and behaving in a threatening manner, falsely accusing them of discrimination and illegal activity.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

IPI

From page 1

Commonwealth Casino Commission's revocation proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Last Friday, Carter issued an order denying IPI's motion for a TRO against CCC to stay pending revocation proceedings finding that IPI has failed to meet its burden of likelihood of success on the merits for its due process cause of action and has not established that the issuance of a TRO is in the public's best interest.

In his 12-page order, Carter notes that IPI contends in its motion for TRO that it has a strong likelihood of success on the merits for its due process cause of action because chair Edward Deleon Guerrero and hearing commissioners Rafael Demapan, Ramon Dela Cruz, Mariano Taitano, and Martin Mendiola have a "direct, substantial, arguably personal, pecuniary interest in the outcome of the revocation hearing."

"IPI supports this conten-

tion through stating a number of issues it raised at its revocation hearing including: a force majeure defense, the executive director's lack of evidence to substantiate a charge against IPI, the unconstitutionality of the regulatory fee statute, and that suspension of its license would excuse payment of the regulatory fee under the CLA. IPI asserts that its due process rights to an impartial and disinterested trier of fact are violated because pursuant to 4 CMC § 2309 (a), the CCC derives all its revenue from the annual regulatory fee that IPI challenges as unconstitutional. The court finds that IPI has failed to meet its burden and denies IPI's second motion for a TRO," said the order.

The court further details in its order that to support its due process cause of action, IPI makes a series of contradicting arguments regarding possible incentives and biases the CCC commissioners may have when they are deciding whether or not to revoke IPI's casino license for IPI's failure to pay the regulatory fee.

"On one hand, IPI argues

that the commissioners that will deliberate and vote as to the revocation of IPI's casino license are biased because the CCC itself is entirely funded from the annual regulatory fee from IPI and its affiliates. However, IPI admits that it has failed to pay the regulatory fee, along with other fees for a few years. This indicates that the CCC is not funded solely on IPI's payment of the regulatory fee each year as the CCC has continued to exist without IPI's payments. IPI then contends that [b]ased upon information and belief, CCC is operating on funds borrowed from the CNMI treasury. IPI does not provide any support for this assertion," said the order.

Carter also notes in his order that when IPI discusses that public interest is supported by the court issuing a TRO, it argues that the resumption of its business operations will increase CNMI's tax revenues and allow IPI to pay fees due to the CNMI.

"This indicates that IPI is not presently capable of paying fees due to the CNMI

unless it were able to resume operation. The court finds that this contradicts IPI's assertion that the commissioners would be incentivized to revoke IPI's casino license as there would not be means for IPI to pay outstanding fees and penalties without resumption of its operation," said Carter.

It was only last Feb. 27 when Carter denied IPI's motion for a TRO against CCC, essentially allowing the commission to move forward with proceedings to revoke IPI's casino gaming license.

Tomorrow, April 9, the CCC is set to deliberate and vote on whether to revoke IPI's casino gaming license or not.

Because of this, IPI, through lawyers Stephen Nutting and Michael Chen, is again seeking a TRO to stay the proceedings and to preserve the status quo, claiming possible violation of its due process rights, "pursuant to Rule 65 (b) of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

FINALITY

From page 1

revoke or not IPI's exclusive casino license.

"It's time to put a finality [on thi]," he said in an interview.

The governor said IPI and CCC had a lot of hearings, including arbitration proceedings that went back and forth to the federal court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and that IPI even went to file a petition before the U.S. Supreme Court.

As this developed, IPI manager/director Howyo Chi and Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom said that as of yesterday, they were still talking about coming up with a stipulated agreement regarding the settlement.

CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan on Friday set a special meeting for tomorrow, Tuesday, for the commissioners to deliberate whether to revoke or not IPI's exclusive casino license.

The special meeting will be held at CCC's conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai at 10am.

CCC held a revocation

hearing last Feb. 28 to March 1 on Yeom's two complaints against IPI.

The first complaint was alleged violation of CCC's order requiring IPI to maintain a minimum payroll reserves and other orders. The second complaint was IPI's non-payment of \$3.1 million in casino regulatory fee for 2020.

Included in the agenda of the special meeting, is for the commissioners, who are sitting as judges in the two complaints, to deliberate IPI's motion to disqualify all commissioners from the case.

All interested persons will be afforded the opportunity to present oral testimony on any of the agenda items. Several lawmakers, mostly against IPI, are expected to share their testimony.

Demapan said all interested persons may submit data, views, or arguments in writing, on any of the agenda items.

Palacios, in an interview on Wednesday, said he has concerns about IPI's settlement offer that was submitted to him a week and a half ago.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

PETITION

From page 1

have signed the petition.

"We, the undersigned residents of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), together with concerned global citizens, are writing to express our profound dissatisfaction with the current exorbitant airfare prices charged by United Airlines for flights between Saipan International Airport (SPN) and Guam (GUM). The price of \$580 for a 120-mile, 25-minute flight is not only unreasonable but also unjust, severely impacting our ability to engage in essential activities such as family visits, health-related travel, business, and educational pursuits. This situation poses significant barriers that isolate our community within the Marianas, undermining our shared cultural connections and economic sustainability," the petition states.

The petition added that sudden and unjustified increase in airfare prices places an undue financial burden on the residents of the CNMI, further isolating communities and deterring potential tourists.

"This situation not only affects our local economy by depriving it of crucial tourism revenue but also limits R&R travel opportunities for military personnel stationed in Guam, affecting their morale and potentially reducing economic benefits to the CNMI's local businesses. Additionally, the substantial price discrepancy encourages travel to foreign destinations over domestic ones, leading to a capital exodus that places local businesses at risk," it says.

In addition, the petition said the rationale provided by United for its price hike has been unsatisfactory and generic, failing to address the direct impact on the residents of the CNMI and the

broader implications for our economy and accessibility.

"The monopoly held by United Airlines on this crucial route, due to cabotage restrictions that limit competition, has allowed for unchecked price setting, leading to inflated airfare prices. This monopolistic practice is particularly concerning given the lack of concrete evidence pointing to increased operating costs that would justify such an abrupt and steep fare increase from \$274 to \$580 shortly after the cessation of pandemic-related restrictions," it said.

Because of this, those who signed the petition are demanding immediate reconsideration of airfare pricing and review and reform of cabotage regulations.

"This petition represents a united call for justice, economic sustainability, and regulatory reform aimed at benefiting not only the residents of the Marianas but also contributing to a more

vibrant and accessible region for tourists and military personnel alike. We urge United Airlines and relevant regulatory bodies to take immediate action towards ensuring pricing fairness and making necessary regulatory adjustments," the petition states.

"United Airlines must review and adjust the airfare pricing strategy on the Saipan-Guam route to ensure fairness and reasonableness, reflecting the actual distance traveled. A critical examination and reform of current cabotage regulations that hinder competition and negatively impact accessibility within the CNMI. These regulations should be adjusted to foster a competitive environment that benefits both residents and businesses," the petition adds.

Those interested in signing the petition may do so at <https://www.change.org/p/demand-for-fair-prices-from-united-airlines-for-saipan-to-guam-route>.

TAIWAN

From page 1

the devastating earthquake that struck the eastern side of Taiwan on Wednesday.

The governor said the CNMI extends its deepest sympathies to all those affected by this tragic event, which has caused loss of lives, injuries to hundreds, and significant disruption to daily life in and around Hualien.

He said the images and reports emerging from the affected areas are deeply saddening.

Palacios said it is particularly distressing to learn of the casualties, the injured, and those trapped due to the collapse of structures and damage to infrastructure.

"Our thoughts are with the

families who have lost their loved ones, those who are injured, and the brave individuals participating in rescue operations," he said.

He said the CNMI is moved by the resilience and strength shown by the people and the government of Taiwan in responding to this disaster.

The government said the CNMI acknowledges and appreciates the global community's response, including expressions of support and offers of assistance from various countries.

Palacios asked the Taiwan president not to hesitate to inform him how the CNMI can be of assistance.

"Our prayers and thoughts remain with you, and we hope for a swift and robust recovery for all affected by this disaster," Palacios told the president.

CNMI's total GHG emissions exceed 440,000 metric tons

On Thursday, April 11, 2024 starting at 5:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor Center, the Office of the Governor's Climate Policy & Planning Program invites community members to a presentation of the CNMI's preliminary greenhouse gas inventory and proposed priorities

measures to reduce GHG emissions. Discussion and Q&A will follow.

Greenhouse gases are gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. They include carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide. Human activities, such as the burning of fossil fuels, generate these gases and contribute to the warming of the planet. The key sectors considered in the CNMI's GHG inventory are: 1) electric

» Public invited to climate action presentation next Thursday

power generation (stationary combustion); 2) transportation (mobile combustion); 3) wastewater; 4) solid waste; and 5) carbon sequestration. The preliminary inventory estimates over 440,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent were generated across source sectors in

the base year 2023. Electric power generation and transportation were the biggest emission sources by far, accounting for 51% and 48% of emissions, respectively.

The GHG inventory and proposed near-term, high-impact emissions reduction measures will be part of the Commonwealth's Priority Climate Action Plan, which will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and published online later this month. Eligible departments, offices, agencies, and municipalities of the CNMI government are currently preparing applications for implementation funding under EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Program.

The CPRG Program was created by the 2022 Inflation

Reduction Act, the nation's landmark legislation investing in climate action and clean energy. The program provides \$5 billion in grants to states, local governments, tribes, and territories to develop and implement ambitious plans for reducing GHG emissions and other harmful air pollution. EPA has set aside \$300 million for the tribes and territories' competition for implementation grants, which are due May 1.

For more information about EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Program, visit <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants> or contact Tina Sablan, special assistant for Climate Policy and Planning at (670) 664-8527 or tina.sablan@gov.mp. (PR)

Palacios urges swift legislative action to protect retirees' 25%

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios is optimistic that the CNMI Legislature will send him legislation appropriating funds to continue making the 25% pension payments to retirees, but time is running short.

In a letter to Settlement Fund trustee Joyce Tang last Wednesday, Palacios notified her that until these appropriations are made, in light of severe fiscal challenges affecting the government, the 25% pension payments to retirees will be suspended beginning April 15, 2024.

"Since the beginning of this administration, it has been our commitment to continue the 25% payments to the retirees," Palacios wrote, but added that additional appropriations are needed to continue making these payments.

"My reprogramming authority is currently limited

to funds within the Executive Branch, and any further reprogramming for the 25% retiree pension payments will place other critical obligations in jeopardy."

The House of Representatives recently and unanimously passed HB 23-104 identifying \$5.2 million in appropriations to fund this pension payment. The source of funding is dividends paid to the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority on its shares in the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. The bill is now with the Senate. It is undergoing legal review by the Attorney General.


Palacios underscored the urgency of the situation and urged the Senate to prioritize the passage of legislation that would avert the suspension of the 25% retiree pension payments. He added that he welcomes the efforts

of the Legislature to address the funding shortfall impacting retirees' pensions.

"Whether the solution comes from HB 23-104 or in the form of other revenue bills, we need the partnership of the Legislature to protect our retirees' livelihoods. My

administration cannot do this alone," Palacios said.

"The leaders of the Commonwealth have a collective obligation to safeguard our retirees' benefits and give them the peace of mind and financial security they deserve," he added. (PR)


DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DEQ-42400080
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 7, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) CLASS 'F' VEHICLES FOR BECQ/DEQ, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY BY APRIL 26, 2024, TO MR. ELI CABRERA VIA EMAIL AT eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID
ITB24-CHCC/CGC-PMHCA-010
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 18th, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)


"PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY


UNITED STATES
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 1st Quarter General Membership Meeting on April 18, 2024 from 9:30am to 1:00pm at Saipan World Resort – Sunflower Room

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of the Agenda of April 18, 2024
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024
- V. New Business
 - a. Office of the Public Auditor Presentation
 - b. Self-Care Awareness & Techniques Training for CLI Self Advocates
 - c. Fundamentals of Caregiving Training
 - d. Emergency Management & Disability Awareness Training – Niagara University
 - e. IntellectAbility – Reducing Risk Training for Clinicians
 - f. Mental Health Awareness Month – May 2024
 - g. Disability Policy Seminar – May 2024
- VI. Action Items
 - a. Review and Approve the DD Basic Grant Partial Award Budget
 - b. Review and Approve the CNMI Assistive Technology Grant Partial Award Budget
 - c. Update Council Member Travel Policy
- VII. Old Business
 - a. AS UCEDD Technical Assistance Update
- VIII. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Next Meeting
- IX. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes of oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Concepcion Ulloa
Chairperson

This ad is supported by the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award total \$274,744 with 100 percent funding by ACL/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by ACL/HHS, or the U.S. Government.


KANTO10 DYES
DELIVERY. TAKEOUT. DINE-IN.



Beef Short Rib Set



Fried Parrot Fish Set



Grilled Squid



Hotlong Combo Set



Grilled Prawn Set



Pork & Chicken Combo Skewers Set



Bacolod Authentic Chicken Inasal



KANTO10 DYES

📍 Flores Rosa Street, Garapan
☎ (670) 488-2227
📱 kanto 10

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXXIV, Issue No. 70

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Israel must explain: World Central Kitchen deaths need scrutiny

On Monday, seven humanitarian workers with World Central Kitchen lost their lives in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza amid the war that Hamas began with its Oct. 7 onslaught of murder, rape and kidnapping. Israel and Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu (who will be talking with President Biden today) must explain how this airstrike happened, and guarantee that avoiding civilian deaths will be a priority in weighing military actions.

War is hell, and war is, to some extent, chaos. It is not possible to fight a war with a 100% certainty that no errors will be committed in the fog of conflict. Yet that doesn't mean accepting an all-or-nothing approach—that either a military maintains a perfect record of avoiding collateral damage, an all-but-impossible standard, or it is free to let loose without much care for the people caught in the crossfire.

There is a wide gulf in between, and moral armed forces, as the Israel Defense Forces hold themselves to be, are expected to hew as closely as they can to the minimization of wanton destruction.

The distressingly high level of civilian Palestinian casualties is due to Hamas' diabolical embedding of their terrorist fighters among the populace. The intention is to make Israel's war-fighting very difficult. And that is the challenge that the IDF must meet: to attack and destroy Hamas while sparing the bystanders, a challenge it is not always meeting.

Biden, a longtime supporter of Israel, is in agreement, saying flatly that "this is not a stand-alone incident," and that the killing of aid workers "is a major reason why distributing humanitarian aid in Gaza has been so difficult... Israel has also not done enough to protect civilians."

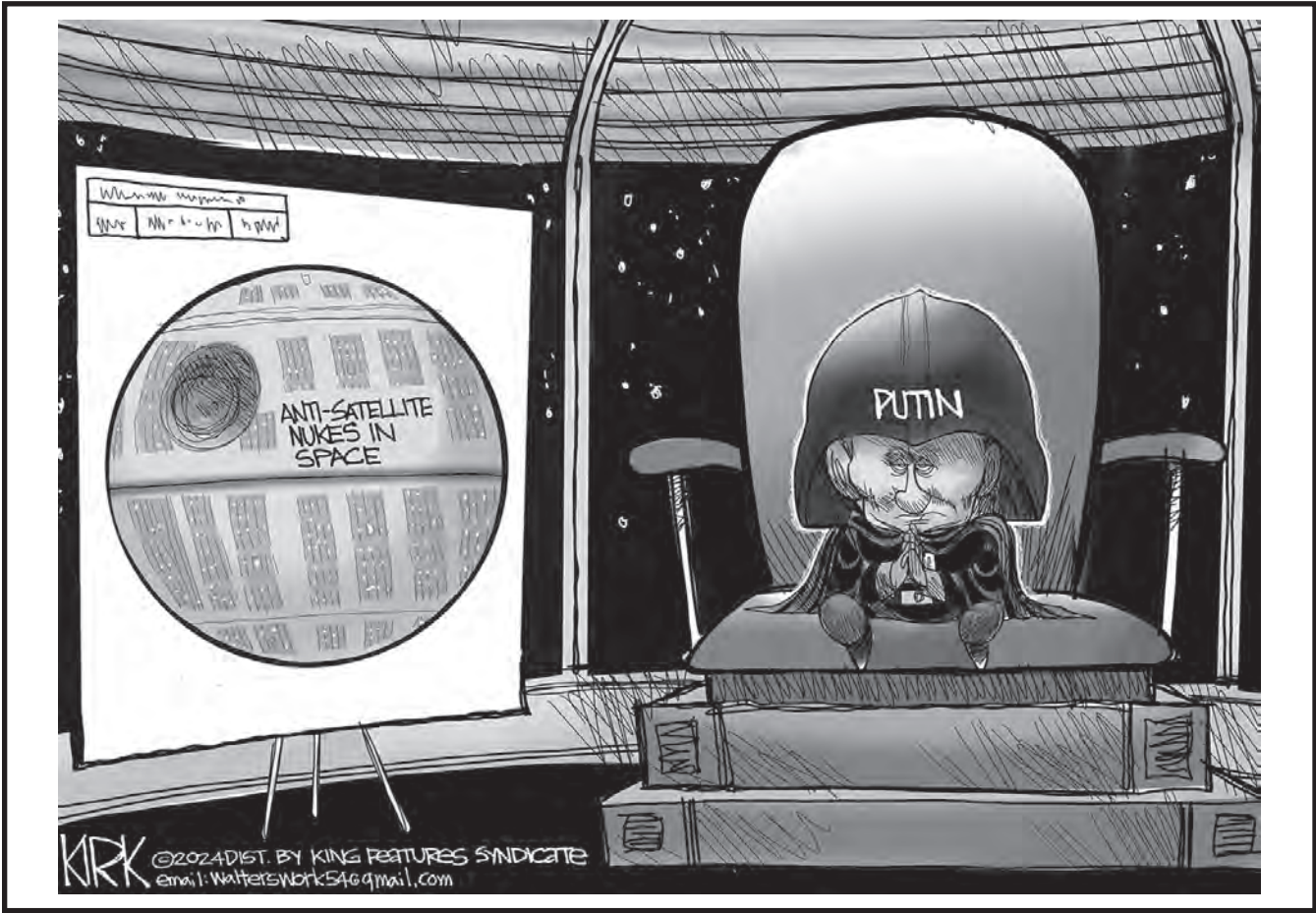
The IDF's contention that this was an error borne out of misidentification and miscommunication is troubling as World Central Kitchen has been successfully sharing their coordinates directly with the military for weeks to avoid being targeted. In the aftermath, IDF sources told Haaretz that this could be because commanders on the ground are making their own decisions outside the chain of command.

It is incumbent on Israel to find the cause and have some accountability for the personnel at fault here for hitting an aid convoy. While correct that the cause of the whole war lays with Hamas' aggression, that cannot be a shield against the grave responsibilities that come with being a modern and very well-equipped military operating in a civilian-dense area.

Rather than seeing accountability as a detriment to the war effort, Netanyahu and the military brass should see it as a boon. The impression that the leadership is not in control of troop's operations and decision-making on the ground will only further undermine the war effort and global credibility, as will the ever-increasing risk of humanitarian disaster from famine in Gaza. World Central Kitchen was one of the aid organizations most active in staving off starvation; with it and several other groups suspending operations, that catastrophe draws closer.

For the aid to flow once more, aid groups have to trust that their people will be reasonably safer, or at the very least won't be targeted in military operations. Only a full accounting of this tragedy and the implementation of safeguards against another will rebuild this trust.

©2024 New York Daily News.



Putin, Russia and what might have been

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**
Tribune News Service



Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com

The tip came from the enemy. So, of course, the president found it suspicious—and provocative. He was, after all, ex-KGB.

But what came next would have infuriated Vladimir Putin even if he had only been ex-Bolshoi ballet. Right after their CIA tipped his officials, their embassy put it all online. So now—just before Election Day—ordinary Russians knew all about it: “Security Alert: Avoid Large Gatherings over the Next 48 Hours.”

“Location: Moscow, Russia. The Embassy is monitoring reports that extremists have imminent plans to target large gatherings in Moscow, to include concerts, and U.S. citizens should be advised to avoid large gatherings over the next 48 hours. 7 March 2024.”

(The U.S. Embassy alert left out one mega-detail that the CIA's Moscow operatives reportedly told Russian officials, according to a New York Times report: The extremists involved were the Islamic State's faction known as ISIS-K.)

Putin promptly lit his famously short fuse, pounded his equally famous iron fist—and moved quickly to make sure ordinary Russians knew he was in command and totally in control. Putin summoned the board that runs his Federal Security Service (FSB).

Putin blasted his enemies—and made sure his words ended up in Tass, Pravda and on every Russian news screen. Without offering any evidence, Putin claimed Ukraine was now using “terrorist tactics.” He said the West was making “provocative statements” about potential attacks in Russia. And Putin claimed the West's warnings “resemble outright blackmail and the intention to intimidate and destabilize our society.”

Three days later, terrorists shot up the concert at Crocus City Hall near Moscow, killing at least 143 people. Islamic State terrorist leaders claimed credit for the attack. But Putin had his FSB director claim on TV Thursday that the “special services of Ukraine are directly related to this”—and Russia believes the United States and Britain are, too.

If the Russians had taken the U.S. tip more seriously—and had not scoffed at the alert and spun it into an unsupported (see also: Big Lie) claim blaming it on Ukraine and the West—the tragedy might have been averted. Or minimized.

But while we are talking about the might-have-beens, we also ought to remember what used to be. At the turn of the 21st century, Russia and its new young president, Putin, were much different than anything we see today. The United States and post-Cold War non-communist Russia were, in many ways, becoming somewhat like allies in a new world order.

One day in 2002, while Russia's new young president, Putin, was at work in his Kremlin office, his adviser on strategic affairs,

Marshal Igor Sergeyev, was in his nearby office, talking with a U.S. journalist about his hopes for Russia's new close relationship with the United States. Sergeyev, who had commanded Russia's nuclear forces and served as defense minister, hoped the two nuclear superpowers would succeed in preventing terrorists from obtaining poorly secured nuclear weapons and materials around the world. (Yep, he was talking with me. I was writing a 2003 book and was managing editor of a PBS television documentary series, both titled “Avoiding Armageddon.”)

We talked about a most unusual and optimistic collaboration: U.S. Gen. Eugene Habinger, commander of America's strategic forces, and Sergeyev, his Russian counterpart, had a series of meetings that culminated in the two top generals touring each other's top-secret nuclear facilities. Sergeyev tells me that in his Soviet military days, he had “no doubt, any American was an enemy for me.” But now, he said, he and Gen. Habinger had bonded: “Today our best friends in America are the strategic commanders of the strategic armed forces... I saw many things in common between us.”

Sergeyev envisioned a grand future that he once could not have imagined. A future of global security that is assured by the permanent strength of what he called “an Arch of Stability. The United States, Russia and China – that is the Arch of Stability.”

Fast-Forward: Sergeyev didn't live long enough to see his former boss, Putin, erupt in a fit of rage and yank the keystone that was Russia out of that Arch of Stability that Sergeyev believed would be his dream-come-true.

In 2014, the late marshal's former boss, Putin, felt enraged when independent Ukraine began a close trade relationship with Europe. In a flash fit of rage, Putin's military seized Ukraine's Crimea. Now Putin is making war on the rest of Ukraine.

As we all know, an arch that loses its keystone quickly becomes just a pile of rubble. Today, as a sadder world watches, Russia's militarily aggressive Vladimir Putin seems intent upon achieving just one grand global goal. To borrow Winston Churchill's famous phrase, today's Putin seems determined to make Marshal Sergeyev's Arch of Stability rubble bounce.

EDITORIAL POLICY

contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Justice is finally coming to some of the liars and cheats who enabled Trump

The arc of the moral universe—the one that is supposedly long and bending toward justice — seems finally to be edging closer to its mark.

A series of events in recent days—the defenestration of Ronna McDaniel, threatened disbarment of John Eastman, capitulation of Kari Lake in a defamation lawsuit—suggests a reckoning is upon us.

It's taken a while. Too long to satisfy those who would rather justice be swift than sure.

But the humiliation visited on McDaniel, the sanctioning of Eastman and Lake, as well as the jailing of Peter Navarro, the Clinton-Democrat-turned-Trump-flunky, all bring a welcome and much-needed measure of accountability.

Perhaps their punishment will deter others who might similarly endeavor to overthrow a free and fairly conducted election, affronting the country's values and assaulting our democracy with their deceit.

The four differ in their deeds. But all are sprung from the same poisoned seed: Donald Trump's lie about the 2020 election, which he lost, clearly and indisputably, to Joe Biden.

McDaniel, while she was head of the Republican National Committee, not only helped spread Trump's lie but sought to pressure officials in Michigan—her home state—to withhold certification of Biden's victory there.

Her reward was a \$300,000-a-year contract to serve as a political commentator for NBC, which soiled itself in a misguided attempt to bring political diversity to its election coverage.

The network backed off and dumped McDaniel only after a remarkable on-air revolt by several of its marquee personalities, who rightly questioned the platforming of a fabulist and accessory to attempted election sabotage.

As MSNBC host Rachel Maddow aptly put it, "You wouldn't hire ... a mobster to work at a DA's office, right?"

The swift dispatch of McDaniel was not a matter of silencing a conservative voice, as some would have it. Rather, it was taking back a megaphone from a known liar whose every utterance would—and should—have been called into question.

(A whole other issue is the amount of money that was shelled out to McDaniel not long after NBC made cuts to its news division — a reflection of an industry preference for elevating partisans, Democratic and Republican, over journalists.)

Eastman's comeuppance came a day after McDaniel's unceremonious exit, when a California State Bar judge recommended the attorney lose his law license for helping devise a cockamamie scheme to keep Trump in office despite his election defeat.

It's one thing to provide zealous counsel, said the judge, Yvette Roland, whose recommendation of disbarment goes to the state Supreme Court. "However, Eastman's inaccurate assertions were lies that cannot be justified as zealous advocacy," she concluded.

Indeed, though it would have been nice had the judge gone beyond the \$10,000 fine imposed on Eastman, which seems a pittance considering the damage wrought by the former Orange County law school dean.

It's not as though he were testing some novel theory in moot court, or practicing "creative" lawyering, as he claimed in a self-pitying podcast interview.

Eastman set out to override and invalidate the judgment of more than 80 million Americans who voted for Biden and cast their ballots with full faith the results would be honored, just as they had been for the previous 200-plus years in America.

(For those members of the what-about chorus, yawping that Hillary Clinton and Stacey Abrams questioned the legitimacy of their defeats, there is no comparison between griping on the lecture circuit and mounting a spurious, full-frontal legal attack. Not to mention inciting a violent mob to storm the Capitol and prevent lawmakers from certifying the election.)

Happily, one of Eastman's fellow henchman, Navarro, is stewing in prison after refusing to testify about the Jan. 6 insurrection and his plan to keep Congress from tallying Biden's electoral college victory.

The four-month jail hitch is just the latest adornment on Navarro's unusual career path from environmentalist San Diego mayoral candidate and Democratic congressional hopeful to fall-on-his-sword MAGA loyalist.

Finally, there is Arizona's feckless Kari Lake.

She ran for governor in 2022 as a Trump wannabe and kept up the act for months after losing, falsely claiming she, too, was a victim of election fraud.

Her fakery resulted in a defamation suit filed by Maricopa County's Republican elections chief, which Lake—now running

By MARK Z. BARABAK

Los Angeles Times

Mark Z. Barabak is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times, focusing on politics in California and the West.



for U.S. Senate—has ceased to contest. Last month, she asked a judge to skip the trial and go straight to assessing damages.

Here's hoping for a huge drain on Lake's bank account, followed by a resounding rejection by Arizona voters.

Of course, the impresario of all the destruction and duplicity—Trump—has yet to face any criminal penalties.

That moment may be nearing, as a New York City jury is scheduled to take up the matter surrounding hush money Trump paid adult film performer Stormy Daniels to cover up an alleged one-night stand.

It's tempting to turn away and be spared the yucky details. But it's important to remember the context.

The panicked payment to Daniels came after Trump was heard boasting on the infamous "Access Hollywood" tape about committing sexual assault, which pushed his candidacy to the brink of collapse in the final weeks of the 2016 campaign. The additional revelation of an extramarital affair could have cost Trump the White House; voters certainly deserved to know the facts.

Unfortunately, other criminal cases, involving the former president's efforts to overturn the election and his negligent handling of classified documents after leaving the White House, may not reach a jury before November.

That leaves it up to voters to deliver their verdict on Trump, which should be a clear and unequivocal thrashing at the polls.

But for now, at least, there's satisfaction in holding to account at least some of the fraudsters and cheats who enabled his rampant wrongdoing.

At long last.

How struggles over immigration echo the conflict over slavery

In November, the Texas legislature enacted Senate Bill 4 to empower state law enforcement to arrest suspected undocumented immigrants. First-time offenders face six months of imprisonment, while second-timers can be incarcerated for up to 20 years.

Texas prisons are already overcrowded, inhumane spaces. During last year's heat wave, more than 40 prisoners died when temperatures in some prisons skyrocketed above 130 degrees. Undocumented immigrants would have to choose deportation to avoid these conditions.

Though framed in racially neutral terms, S.B. 4 is unmistakably racist. Like earlier laws, S.B. 4 would authorize further racial profiling of Latinos—including citizens and permanent residents—by law enforcement, well past the border.

S.B. 4 is a disastrous rejection of settled law. Historically, immigration enforcement has been a federal power, and the Supreme Court has affirmed this position. This tracks with the vision of the Framers, who anticipated the federal government should regulate the nation's borders.

For now, the law is unenforceable, no thanks to the Supreme Court. The court's conservative majority refused to issue a temporary stay, despite S.B. 4 defying the court's own precedent. As Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, S.B. 4 "upends the federal-state balance of power that has existed for over a century, in which the National Government has had exclusive authority over entry and removal of noncitizens."

S.B. 4 was only temporarily restrained when a lower court sided with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, the organization challenging the law. Yet Texas has not only disrupted a centurylong balance of powers. Its attempt to nullify federal law echoes the conflict over slavery that drove the Civil War.

A startlingly similar conflict unfolded in summer 1822, when South Carolinians discovered plans for a massive uprising by free and enslaved Black people. Led by Denmark Vesey, a freedman, thousands of free and enslaved Black people would have swept across the countryside and into Charleston, from where the group planned to sail for Haiti.

The uprising was discovered and brutally suppressed. After

a summer of kangaroo court trials, 35 Black men were executed, two died in custody (likely from torture) and 37 were exiled. Thus tragically ended one of the largest, most elaborate uprisings in U.S. history. After the trials, state lawmakers enacted the 1823 Negro Seamen Act. The law restricted the immigration of all Black seamen into South Carolina by blaming them for the uprising.

Black sailors, lawmakers argued, smuggled in radical ideas of freedom that were a contagion causing a moral pestilence among enslaved people. To contain these ideas, the law required that all Black sailors be detained at the ship's expense. If the captain refused or failed to pay, the cost was recuperated by declaring the Black sailor an absolute slave and selling them.

The reality, of course, was that enslaved people resisted because they were enslaved, a fact lawmakers ignored. Much like the figuration of Black sailors as a moral contagion, Texas lawmakers have framed undocumented immigration as an actively unfolding, "complete and total invasion." In both cases, the law dehumanizes people of color to uphold a democracy committed to white supremacy.

Within the year, the Negro Seamen Act was declared unconstitutional by Supreme Court Justice William Johnson in *Elkison v. Deliesseline* (1823). Anticipating the court's landmark ruling in *Gibbons v. Ogden* (1824), Johnson held in even stronger terms that South Carolina had violated the federal government's sovereign right to regulate commerce. Yet state officials defied Johnson's ruling and continued to enforce the state law. In a resolution drafted by a state senator from South Carolina, the legislature proclaimed that an individual state's power to suppress insurrections was "paramount to all laws, all treaties, all constitutions."

This claim posed a grave risk not only to the nation but also to the state's economy. Charleston was a hub, particularly for the slave trade: More than 40% of enslaved people were trafficked through Charleston.

Similar to South Carolina, Texas lawmakers ignore that undocumented immigrant laborers, including child labor, make up 8% of the state's workforce and are integral to its booming economy. Through racist practices of detainment and deportation,

By SEAB KIM BUTORAC

Chicago Tribune

Sean Kim Butorac, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of political science at North Central College.



South Carolina risked a diplomatic and economic crisis, much like Texas does today.

South Carolina's actions had far-reaching consequences. Identical laws were passed in North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. Similarly, today, other states have begun to follow Texas' example. Lawmakers in Oklahoma, Kansas, Louisiana and Missouri are considering similar bills, and Iowa has already enacted a similar law.

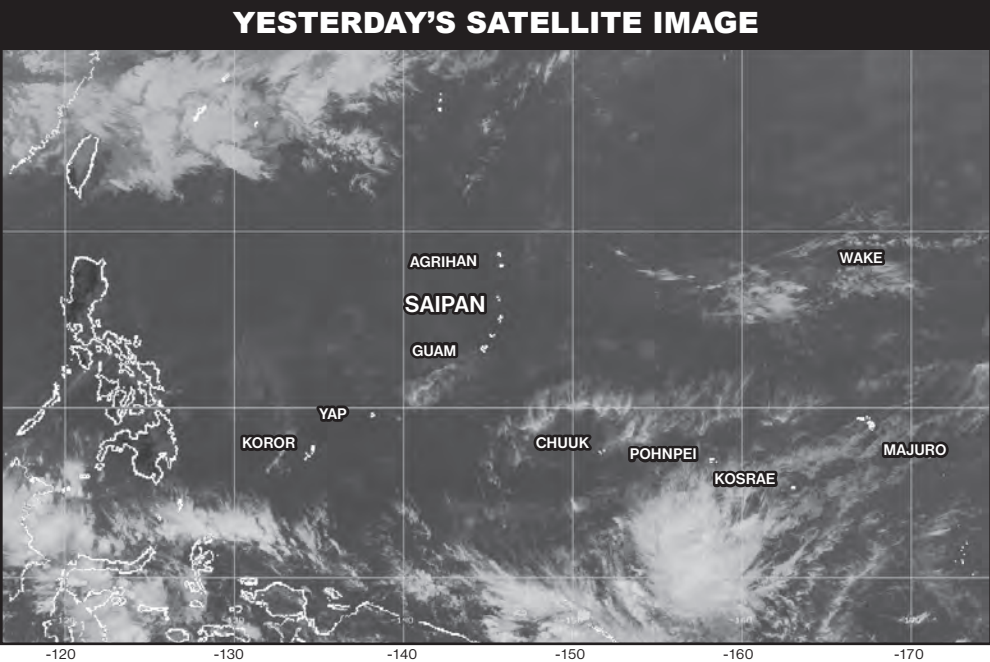
South Carolina's act of nullification hardened its commitment to states' rights with the intent of preserving slavery. It was the Vesey affair and the struggle over immigration and slavery that "lit a fuse to Fort Sumter," the first battle of the Civil War.

It remains to be seen whether the Supreme Court will uphold S.B. 4 and continue its trend of supporting racist policies, eroding voting rights, turning back civil rights and diminishing the federal government's power. Likewise, if S.B. 4 is overturned, it is unclear whether Texas will abide by the rule of law or attempt to nullify the federal government's power.

That we find ourselves at another pivotal moment — one in which white supremacy is cloaked in the language of states' rights—does not simply echo the past. It serves to remind us that slavery still casts a long shadow over American politics and that our commitment to an inclusive, multiracial democracy remains fragile at best.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°	87°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 6:47 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows patchy low etage clouds spread over the region this morning. Any nearby showers are likely to be very isolated and light. Surface winds are moderate to fresh with the stronger winds mostly northward near Saipan. Wave models suggest combined seas of 6 to 8 feet across the region, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind waves, but there could be occasional higher waves.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Palau	Mostly Sunny	85° / 78°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:30 PM
Tuesday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Wednesday	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:30 AM	6:01 PM	-
Tuesday	6:13 AM	7:01 PM	-
Wednesday	6:58 AM	8:03 PM	-
Thursday	7:46 AM	9:05 PM	-
Friday	8:37 AM	10:08 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	66° / 57°	
Beijing	Cloudy	55° / 37°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 66°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 68°	
London	Sunny	68° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 52°	
Manila	Mostly Sunny	93° / 79°	
Melbourne	Sunny	72° / 57°	
Miami	Mostly Sunny	87° / 71°	
New York	Showers	58° / 47°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	63° / 45°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	75° / 54°	
Busan	Partly Cloudy	64° / 48°	
Rome	Sunny	70° / 46°	
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	81° / 63°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 49°	
Seoul	Sunny	61° / 36°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	61° / 46°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	78° / 53°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:02 AM	High Tide	0.20	
7:12 AM	Low Tide	2.05	
1:35 PM	High Tide	0.31	
7:35 PM	Low Tide	2.06	

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

JKPL celebrates National Library Week this April 7-13

To celebrate National Library Week from April 7 to 13, 2024, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, San Antonio Branch Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library (Rota), Tinian Public Library, and their Bookmobiles encourage everyone in the Northern Mariana Islands to visit your library to take part in the festivities and explore all the library has to offer.

National Library Week is a time to celebrate the nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library," illustrating the idea that in the always-online world, libraries give everyone a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. At the library's author talks, workshops, and book clubs, Americans can connect with fellow enthusiasts and local experts while building relationships that will last a lifetime. No matter where you find yourself on the roadmap through life's journey-preparing for a new career, launching a business, or raising a family-the library provides an inclusive and supportive community where everyone belongs.

National Library Week schedule

■ Sunday, April 7: Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, 9am presided by Fr. Rey Rosal, rector. Dedication prayer in honor of National Library Week, libraries, and library workers.

■ Monday, April 8: Right to Read Day, a day for readers, advocates, and library lovers to take action to protect, defend, and celebrate the right to read. State of America's Libraries Report released.

■ Tuesday, April 9:

❖ National Library Workers Day, a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.

❖ National Library Week Proclamation Signing event at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library at 10am.

❖ Library Spirit Week: Cultural Day. Wear your favorite cultural attire at your JKPL.

❖ Amnesty Week: During amnesty week, patrons may return overdue materials to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library location, and the JKPL will forgive past and present fines as long as the library items are in good condition.

❖ Banned Book Trivia.
❖ Friendship Bracelet Making, 3:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Online Internet Safety

class, 2:30pm-3:30pm.

❖ Scavenger Hunt, 3:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Roadside Waving at JKPL curbside intersection, 4:30pm.

■ Wednesday, April 10:

❖ National Library Outreach Day (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.

❖ Amnesty Week continued.

❖ Spirit Week-Crazy Hair/Hat Day, 3:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Nintendo Switch Party, 2pm.

❖ Bookmark Making.

❖ Bookmobile School Parade.

■ Thursday, April 11:

❖ Take Action for Libraries Day, a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

❖ Amnesty Week continued.

❖ Spirit Week-Wacky Print Day.

❖ Children's Painting Activity, 3:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Hour of Code-Wakanda Forever, 3:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Great Stories Club: Finding Your Voice, 4:30pm-5:30pm.

❖ Arts & Crafts Day, San Antonio Branch Library, 2:30pm-4:30pm.

■ Friday, April 12:

❖ Amnesty Week continued.

❖ Spirit Week-Sports Day.

❖ Edible Book Contest, 2pm-7pm.

❖ Free Library Card Replacement Day.

❖ Movie Day, 2:30pm, followed by Sensory Night, 5pm-

7pm. The Sensory Corner provides community engagement and accessibility resources to small and rural libraries to help them better serve people with disabilities. The Sensory Corner is located in the Children of Our Homeland Center a.k.a. the Children's Library filled with stationary activities, learning to go packages, activated technology assistance devices, painting, etc

❖ Chess Night, 4pm-7pm.

❖ Drop Everything and Read! #WakeUpAndReadCNMI, San Antonio Branch Li-

brary, 2:30pm-4:30pm.

❖ Bookmark Making.


■ Saturday, April 13:

❖ Get your running and walking shoes ready for a great cause! Celebrate School Library Month and National Library Week by signing up for the 3rd Annual Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library 5K Fun Run/Walk. The race will start at 5pm on Saturday, April 13, 2024, beginning at the Fishing Base located in Garapan, Saipan then turning around at the Quarter Master Road and returning to finish

at Fishing Base. Online registration through www.race-roster.com is required. Search: joeten-kiyu or visit the www.cnmlib.com for more details. All proceeds received from the Fun Run/Walk will go to the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's 2024 Collaborative Summer Library Program for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Please help support a great cause. Entry fee is \$10 for participants 13 years old and above. The event will be free for children 12 years old and below. There will be no refunds. Please

note, \$10 is not inclusive of the processing fee from race roster. All children must be accompanied by an adult. This year, the Friends of the JKPL is excited to sponsor a Literary Character Costume Contest. There will be a \$150.00 cash prize for the winner of the Costume Contest. The contest is open only to race/walk participants. All minor participants of the Costume Contest must be accompanied by a participating parent/guardian of the race/walk. Library card

See JKPL on Page 10



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2024
Opening date: April 01, 2024 Closing date: April 19, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Attorney

UNGRADED

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than 5:00 P.M. on Friday, April 19, 2024.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA

Executive Director



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID
Automated Teller Machine
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-006-24
CPA Concession No.: SAT-2024-01

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations to provide Automated Teller Machine at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning March 15, 2024, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday, at the Accounting Office, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed on its austerities days and holidays. The IFB includes a layout and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cnmiports.com no later than April 2, 2024.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE SERVICES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-006-24."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than **3:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, April 18, 2024**, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on April 18, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at the Meeting Room, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to provide Automated Teller Machine services at a certain designated location within the Saipan International Airport for a period of five (5) years and requires the concessionaire to operate such concession to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

LEO B. TUDELA

Executive Director

Date

Name: Victor Tonga
Address: 2760 Pacific Outlet,
Chalan Lau Lau
Phone: (670) 987-8758

Pro Se

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF
THE NORTHERN MARIANA
ISLANDS**

In Re the Matter of the Petition To Correct:

] FCD CIVIL
] ACTION NO.
] 24-0117
]

VICTOR T. TONGA

] NOTICE OF
Petitioner(s)] OF HEARING
]

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on May 6, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio. Dated this 2nd day of April, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz

Clerk of Court

/s/

By: Clerk of Court



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-010	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 Per annum	March 27, 2024	April 11, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.


It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/

JESSE S. PALACIOS

Corporate Director



Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMC RFP 24-001
**RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER
FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Northern Marianas College – Department of Financial Services Unit is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Proposal of a RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The bid packet may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9:00-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00p.m. Electronic packet may be requested to Odin C. Garces at ppmo@marianas.edu.

Bid Submission Due Date: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m., at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/Odin C. Garces

NMC Procurement & Property Management Office

Hopwood gives a toast to assistant principals, library staff

National Assistant Principals Week, April 1-5, 2024, is a celebration of the unsung heroes in our education system. These dedicated folks work tirelessly to bolster teachers, motivate students, support their principal, create a positive learning community, and face the many unpredictable challenges that land on their desk.

Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like to recognize its hardworking and supportive school leaders. Thank you to our vice principals Karen Manuel and Benjamin Seman for all their



Seman



Manuel



Sablan

hard work and dedication for our students, their families, faculty and staff.

National Library Week 2024, April 7-13, 2024, is a time to celebrate our nation's libraries, library workers' contributions and promote library use and support. The theme for National Library Week 2024 is "Ready, Set, Library," illustrating the idea that in our

always-online world, libraries give us a green light to something truly special: a place to connect with others, learn new skills, and focus on what matters most. Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School would like to recognize and thank its school librarian, Janet Sablan, for helping its students create connections and gain new skills. (PR)

JKPL

From page 9

holders preferred.

JKPL extends its special thank you to National Library Week sponsors and community partners: Joeten family, Kiyu family, Commonwealth Library Council, Bridge Capital, LLC, First Lady Wella Palacios, Pacific Advisory Services, Lollipop, Oriental Corp. DBA DY Rental, Elizabeth D. Rechebe, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Office of the Governor, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Office of the Lt. Governor, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Saipan Mayor's Office, Office of the Mayor of Tinian and Aguihan, Rota Mayor's Office, Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Pacific Engineering Group & Services, McREL International, United States Department of Agriculture, Run Saipan, CNMI Public School System, Northern Marianas Library Association, Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections, Garapan Public Market, McDonalds of Saipan, Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Marianas High School JROTC battalion, *Marianas Variety*, *Saipan Tribune*, KSPN2 News, Roman Catholic Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, D.D., Fr. Rey Rosal, Saipan International School, Dr. Ron Snyder, Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums, American Library Association, and community partners.

Those interested in sponsoring, JKPL needs your help and contact the library at (670) 235-7318.

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is sponsored by the American Library Association and observed in libraries across the country each April. All types of libraries—school, public, academic, and special-participate.

In the mid-1950s, research showed that Americans were spending less on books and more on radios, televisions and musical instruments. Concerned that Americans were reading less, the ALA and the American Book Publishers formed a nonprofit citizens organization called the Na-

tional Book Committee in 1954. The committee's goals were ambitious. They ranged from "encouraging people to read in their increasing leisure time" to "improving incomes and health" and "developing strong and happy family life." With the cooperation of ALA and with help from the Advertising Council, the first National Library Week was observed in 1958 with the theme "Wake Up and Read!"

"So, get ready to explore, become inspired, and connect with others this National Library Week. Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, San Antonio Branch Library, Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library, Tinian Public Library, and our Bookmobiles are there for you, all the way to the finish line!" said JKPL in a statement.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting our website at www.cnmlib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, TikTok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joetenkiyupubliclibrary or visit our website www.cnmlib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of JKPL's activities, please contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318.

JKPL also welcomes and encourages businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is able to receive cash contributions under Educational Tax Credit (ETC). Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

JKPL's hours of operation are as follows: Tuesday to Thursday from 10am to 6pm; Friday from 1:30pm to 7pm, and Saturday from 9:30am to 4pm. It is closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and Holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-253665-OLS-23.

JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. (PR)

A Beautiful Heart, A Constant Love

† Amparo Sablan Deleon Guerrero Tenorio

Lovingly known as "Pao"
December 15, 1932 – April 01, 2024

In Amparo's New Life, she is greeted and welcomed by her:
Husband: †Jose Carlos Sablan Pangelinan Tenorio
Parents: †Jesus Diaz and †Maria Sablan Deleon Guerrero
Father/Mother in-law: †Blas Pangelinan and †Guadalupe Sablan Pangelinan Tenorio
Children: †Dorothy T. Billy, †Dolores C. Tenorio, †Joseph DLG. Tenorio, †Eleanor T. Salas
Grandchild: †Daniel A. Quitugua
Daughter-in-law: †Ursula Lifofoi-Aldan
Son-in-law: †Herbert M. Yamada

Amparo's love and memories will forever live in the hearts of her children:

Barbara DLG. A. Yamada (Louisa Y./Wilfredo Garon and Children, **Herbert M. Yamada Jr.** and Children, **Clarissa T./Gordon Blailes** and Children, and **Jose Tenorio/Cyji Tenorio** and Children).
Manuela Aldan Babauta and **Juan L. Babauta** (†Daniel Quitugua, **Virginia Quitugua** and Child, **Jennifer Q./John M. Camacho** and Children, **Amparo Q./Christopher M. Camacho** and Children, and **John Joaquin A. Babauta Jr.**).
Marian Aldan-Pierce and **Richard A. Pierce** (**Janelle Villagomez** and Children, **Jadene Villagomez/JJ Concepcion** and Children, **Richard Connelley Pierce**, and **Rebecca Pierce/Nicholas Martindale**).
Frank LG. Aldan (**Plumeria Joy A./Kolani Castro** and Children, **Skye Lynn A./Edwin Hofschneider Jr.** and Child, **Oceana Pia A./Kyle Songsong** and Child, and **Sunny Frank A./Jonathan Salas**).
Billy A. Billy (**Geraldine Billy** and Son, **Leif Billy**).
Pia DLG. Aldan (**Kim Evan Taisacan** and **Isidro Taisacan, Jr.**).
Anthony C. Tenorio and **Lucinda D. Tenorio** (**Joseph Tenorio/Nicole B. Tenorio** and Children, **Jason Tenorio/Caria Tudela** and Children, **Andrea Tenorio/Ymanuel Sablan** and Children, **Gina Duenas/John Salas** and Children, and **Lauren D./Juanito Sambile Jr.** and Children).
Messalina DLG. Aldan and **Ramon A. Tebuteb** (**Redie A./Anthony Dela Cruz** and Children, **Joseph Mizutani/Donella Somol** and Children, **GrinaLee Mizutani** and Children, **Francisco Mizutani/Ernesta Duenas** and Children, **Reyzor Tebuteb**, **Reyna T./Anthony Peter** and Children, and **Kimo Angailen/Devonne Sablan**).
John M. Salas (**Nathan Salas** and Children, **John Salas Jr.** and Children, **Michelle Salas/Bobby Cruz** and Children, **Joseph Salas** and Children, and **Amparo Salas** and Children).
Jesse DLG. Tenorio and **Alana C. Tenorio** (**Joshua C. Tenorio**, **Gabriella C. Tenorio**, and **Jose C. Tenorio**).

Brothers, Sisters, and In-Law:

†Jose S./†Concepcion C. Deleon Guerrero, †Joaquin S./†Maria C. Deleon Guerrero, †Alberto S. Deleon Guerrero, †Andres S. Deleon Guerrero, †Pedro S./†Dolores A. Deleon Guerrero, †Ana DLG./†Francisco B. Tudela, †Francisco S. Deleon Guerrero, †Soledad DLG./Antonio D. Takai, †Susana DLG./†Pedro Pangelinan, †Jesus S./†Victoria A. Deleon Guerrero, and **Magdalena DLG./Juan D. Castro**, †Merced T. /†Dionicio C. Torres, †Dolores T./†Roman M. Benavente, **Cecilia T./†Marcelino DLG. Camacho**, †Pedro P./Sophia P. Tenorio, †Susana T./†Jesus P. Mafnas, **Juan P./Rita V. Tenorio**, and **Ramona T./Jesus T. Attao**.

Caregivers:

Edith Arawuel, Angela Estioco, and Ruben Gamayo

Mass for the repose soul of Amparo is offered daily at 6:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church and the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Funeral services and last respects for our beloved Amparo will be held on Tuesday, April 09, 2024 at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m., followed by the Rite of Committal at the Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest with her beloved husband.

For all your love, prayers, thoughts and kindness, THANK YOU and SI YU'US MA' ASE.

The Children and families of

† Jose Carlos Sablan Pangelinan and † Amparo Sablan DeLeon Guerrero Tenorio

Life & Style

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher say they filed for divorce

Sacha Baron Cohen and Isla Fisher say they filed for divorce last year after more than 20 years together.

The English “Borat” star and the Australian “Wedding Crashers” actor who married in 2010 announced their split Friday in joint Instagram posts that showed them together in tennis outfits.

“After a long tennis match lasting over twenty years, we are finally putting our racquets down,” the posts said. “In 2023 we jointly filed to end our marriage.”

It is not clear where or exactly when the couple filed to end their marriage, or when the divorce would have become final.

“We have always prioritized our privacy, and have been quietly working through this change,” the posts said.

Fisher, 52, and Cohen, 48, met at a party in Sydney in 2001, and became engaged in 2004.

They have a 16-year-old daughter, a 13-year-old daughter and a 7-year-old son. (AP)



Sacha Baron Cohen, left, and Isla Fisher arrive at the 71st annual DGA Awards at the Ray Dolby Ballroom on Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Lawsuit naming Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs as co-defendant alleges his son sexually assaulted woman on yacht

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawsuit that names Sean “Diddy” Combs as a co-defendant alleges that his son Christian “King” Combs sexually assaulted a woman working on a yacht chartered by his father.

The suit filed Thursday in Los Angeles Superior Court says Sean Combs created the circumstances that led to the assault and paid to cover it up afterward. It’s the latest in a series of lawsuits accusing the producer and music mogul of sexual misconduct, and it comes amid a federal sex trafficking investigation that led Homeland Security agents to raid his homes in Los Angeles and Miami last week.

Grace O’Marcaigh, who worked as a crew member and a bartender on the boat, says that in late December 2022, Christian Combs pressured her to drink tequila that she believes was spiked with other drugs. He groped her breasts and genitals and attempted to force her to perform oral sex, the suit alleges.

The Associated Press



Television crews report live outside a property belonging to Sean “Diddy” Combs, Tuesday, March 26, 2024, in Los Angeles, the day after federal Homeland Security Investigations agents and other law enforcement executed a raid as part of an ongoing sex trafficking investigation by federal authorities in New York.

does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as O’Marcaigh has done. She also consented to being named through her attorneys.

Aaron Dyer, an attorney for Sean and Christian Combs, called the lawsuit “lewd and meritless.”

“We will be filing a motion to dismiss this outrageous claim,”

Dyer said in a statement.

Dyer called the investigation that brought last week’s raids “nothing more than a witch hunt based on meritless accusations made in civil lawsuits.”

Sean Combs, who chartered the yacht throughout the holidays in 2022, “had full control of the staff and premises” and created circumstances where her assault was not only tolerated but encouraged.

Actor in spinoff of popular TV western ‘Yellowstone’ is found dead, authorities say

MISSION, Kan. (AP)—An actor who appeared in a spinoff of the popular television western “Yellowstone” was found dead after he went missing amid a domestic violence investigation in Kansas, authorities said Friday.

The Johnson County Sheriff’s Office said in a statement that deputies found the body of 27-year-old Cole Brings Plenty in a wooded area. Crime scene investigators and the medical examiner were at the location, but no details were released about a cause of death.

Two days earlier Brings Plenty was charged in a nearby county with aggravated burglary, domestic battery and criminal restraint. An arrest warrant was issued.

Police in the town of Lawrence said officers responded Sunday to an apartment where a woman was screaming for help, and Brings Plenty had left before they arrived.

He then missed an audition for an upcoming film project that was scheduled for Monday morning over Zoom, his agent, Peter Yanke of Phirgun Mair Worldwide, said this week.

Brings Plenty’s father, Joe, said in a statement Friday that he is grateful for everyone “for their prayers and positive thoughts you sent for Cole.”

“I learned this week how many people knew the goodness in Cole’s heart and loved him,” Joe Brings Plenty Sr. said.

Cole Brings Plenty appeared in two episodes of the first season of “1923,” a Paramount+ series starring Harrison Ford that is a prequel to the Paramount Network hit “Yellowstone.” He also had recent small roles in two other Westerns from INSP TV, “Into the Wild Frontier” and “The Tall Tales of Jim Bridger.”

His uncle Mo Brings Plenty is a star of “Yellowstone” and acts as a cultural adviser for Native American issues on both that show and “1923.” He posted a flyer about his nephew’s disappearance on Instagram, and police said the family reported the younger man missing.

Brother-in-law is never shy in sharing political beliefs

DEAR ABBY: This is the third time I have received a gift of a political book from my brother-in-law! We are poles apart politically. It came with a message to “please read the book THIS time.” He is expecting a book report and discussion of the book when he next visits.

He started doing this several years ago after my sister died. She used to keep him politically in check, but he has become increasingly obnoxious and emboldened. I have tried tactfully responding that I do not enjoy reading political books, that I do not approve of name-calling, that those who disagree with us are not “stupid” and we just need to accept our differing viewpoints.

There is no way to have a rational political discussion with him. I’m trying to preserve family unity, which is very important to me. My brother wants to threaten him to stop harassing me. My son and his wife suggested sending him things that reflect MY political philosophy.

What do you think I should do? I waver between anger and laughter. By the way, I sent him a box of chocolate chip cookies, which he loves, for the holidays.

HARASSED IN OHIO

DEAR HARASSED: Your brother-in-law is not going to change. Unless you are willing to tolerate his political browbeating into eternity, return the book and “postpone” his

next visit indefinitely. Continue sending him his chocolate chip cookies ONLY if he agrees to quit sending you political literature. Family unity may be important to you, but your late sister’s husband has distanced himself, and that is no one’s fault but HIS OWN.

DEAR ABBY: I have been going out with a man who is nine years younger than I am. He’s a musician who plays bass guitar in several bands. I am retired. I love going out dancing with him and being social with other friends. I met him at a social club a year and a half ago. He works during the week at a fast-food place. Some weekends, he goes away on gigs with the band. He’s been married four times. (I have been married only once.)

My problem is, he never has any money. He is always struggling to pay his bills. I have invested in this relationship with concert tickets, hotels, etc. He pays only occasionally. I haven’t even received a birthday or Christmas gift from him. I, of course, gave him both.

I think he’s cheap. I feel sorry for him that he’s a grown man and doesn’t have his own place. I have taken breaks from him a couple of times because I know he’s not going to change, and I need to move on. Please advise.

ALWAYS HOPING FOR MORE

DEAR ALWAYS HOPING: The question you must

DEAR ABBY
BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

answer for yourself is how much “entertainment tax” you are willing to pay for the pleasure of this wandering minstrel’s company. You foot the bills for his and your entertainment because it is part of your “unwritten contract,” and he expects it.

This four-times-married man has chosen a career he loves but that notoriously doesn’t pay well. You know who he is. Have you spoken to him about your feelings on this? If you haven’t, do it now. And if this arrangement no longer suits you, move on.

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

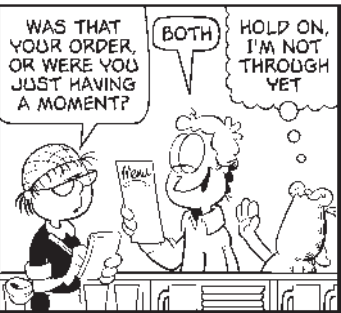
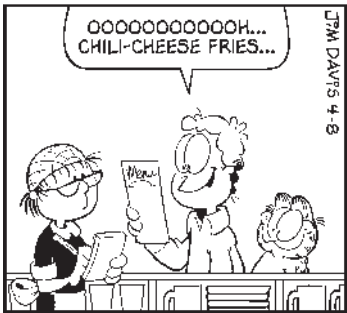
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

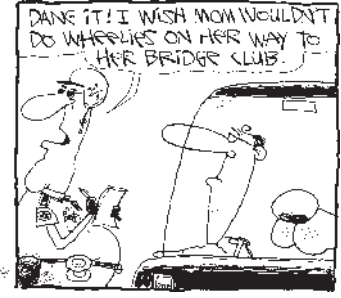
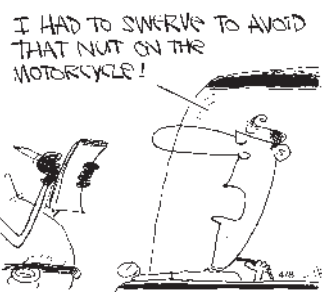
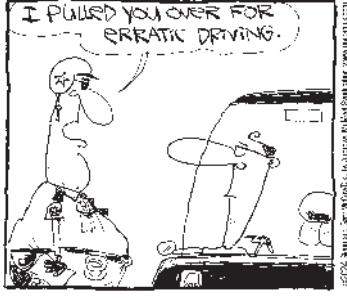
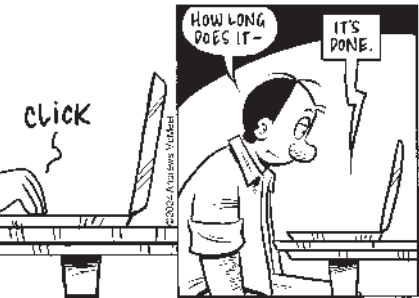
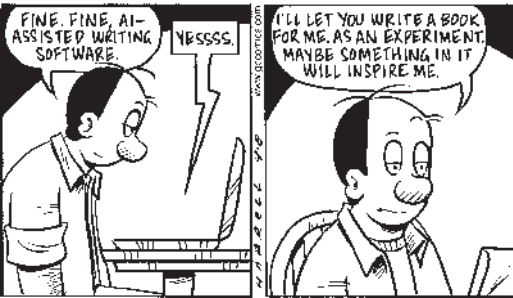


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Male turkey
4 British rule of India
7 London neighborhood
11 "I smell —!"
13 Buck-eyes' sch.
14 Russian river
15 Sister of Rachel
16 Carried out
17 Part of a chord
18 Cupid's team-mate
20 Family fight
22 Peruke
24 Cochise, for one
28 Bewitching
32 Aleppo's land
33 Verbal
34 "—hoo!"
36 Hudson and Buzzards
37 Lab liquids

DOWN

19 Twitch
21 Boom times
23 Part of LGBTQ
25 Suffix with "techno"
26 Informal greeting
27 Sunrise direction
28 Lament
29 Not pizzicato
30 Pace
31 — Alamos
35 Single
38 Melancholy
40 Keats creation
42 Indulges, with "on"
45 Small iPod
47 Subsequently
48 Thinker Descartes
49 Gaelic
50 Clothes line
51 Mound stat
52 Humorist
54 Check-cashing needs

39 Express disdain for
41 Pretty good
43 Sch. URL ender
44 Japanese noodle
46 Strictly — nous
50 Chopped
53 — chi
55 "Believe" singer
56 Rocker Clapton
57 Con- clusion
58 Coop group
59 Calc. or trig
60 "Help!"
61 Formerly known as

Solution time: 21 mins.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14	
15				16				17	
18			19		20		21		
		22		23		24		25	26
28	29	30			31		32		
33				34		35		36	
37			38		39		40		
41				42		43			
		44		45		46		47	48
50	51	52		53		54		55	
56				57				58	
59				60				61	

Friday's Answer 4-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Taylor Kitsch, 43; Sung Kang, 52; Robin Wright, 58; John Schneider, 64.

Happy Birthday: Keep your eye on the ball. Stay focused on what's important to you, and rely on the experience and knowledge you've honed to reach your personal, financial and physical goals. Be innovative. Set high standards, and don't let outside influences lead you down the wrong path. Only you know what you need to make your life easier. Choose what makes you happy, and don't look back. Your numbers are 8, 11, 19, 23, 31, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Avoid taking a physical, emotional or financial risk. Listen, and validate whatever information you receive. Aim to add stability to your life, and avoid stress due to uncertainty and misinformation. Positive change is possible if you create opportunities and follow through. *****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep your money, possessions and ideas safe. Someone will be eager to take your money or mislead you. If you look for opportunities, a positive turnabout will develop. It's up to you to take the first step and make things happen. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Be careful; someone will be eager to lead you astray or take advantage of you. Keep personal information to yourself, and be observant when dealing with partners or those who make impossible offers. If someone asks for money or tries to overcharge, walk away. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't offer too much information or embellish situations. You should stick to the truth and

use your insight and intuition to make your dream a reality. Call on those you know you can count on and let the changes you want begin. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate in events that support a platform to display your offer. Use physical, emotional and intellectual tactics to give an all-round vision of the possibilities. Don't fall short because you let someone interfere with your plans. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put things you can't change on hold and get back to improving what's feasible. Get involved in events and pastimes that will broaden your awareness and help you see what's possible. Make changes to expand your comfort at home. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep an eye on expenditures. Money will slip through your fingers if you aren't paying attention. Don't let anger ruin your day or your relationship with someone close. Put more time and effort into personal improvements. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): It's time to shake things up and change your life. Consider what stabilizes you, offer positive reinforcements and start to build the infrastructure to house the transformation you want to make. Make your own opportunities. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be happy and live your life your way. Refuse to let anyone limit or control you. Do your research and choose what's best for you. A career change looks inviting. Before you agree, hash out the details and get what you want in writing. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Find alternatives that offer household efficiency. Lowering your overhead will help you regain the control you require to balance your life personally and professionally. The more hands-on you are, the more you will save. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a moment to reflect and reconnect with kindred spirits. An attitude adjustment will offer a realistic alternative to your lifestyle. Refuse to let the changes others choose tempt you to follow suit. Your best move is toward personal happiness. ****



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Check out roadblocks before you begin your journey. Educate yourself and physically prepare for your next venture. The time and effort you put in will ward off unnecessary setbacks. Surround yourself with trustworthy individuals. **



Birthday Baby: You are driven, optimistic and flexible. You are playful and charismatic.



✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **✪✪:** You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. **✪✪✪:** Focus and you'll reach your goals. **✪✪✪✪:** Aim high; start new projects. **✪✪✪✪✪:** Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

	5		1	4	2	8		6
4		1			6			9
6	2		9	3				
	9		7		8		6	3
8		2	3	5			9	1
7		3	6			5		
	8				6		7	
9	3		2			4		
	4	6						

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	9	8	7	3	2	5	1	4
1	3	5	4	8	6	7	9	2
4	2	7	1	5	9	3	8	6
7	5	6	9	1	8	4	2	3
9	1	3	2	4	7	8	6	5
2	8	4	3	6	5	9	7	1
8	4	2	5	7	1	6	3	9
3	6	1	8	9	4	2	5	7
5	7	9	6	2	3	1	4	8

Difficulty: ★ 4/8
©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TODAY IS A TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN Solution: 6 letters

F	P	S	A	C	I	R	E	M	A	H	T	R	O	N
I	H	E	S	R	E	V	I	N	U	M	B	R	A	O
L	E	S	P	E	C	T	A	C	L	E	U	T	T	S
T	N	S	D	U	R	A	T	I	O	N	U	E	E	A
E	O	A	U	M	A	S	W	L	I	R	I	L	N	E
R	M	L	O	O	A	I	Y	T	E	E	C	E	A	S
E	E	G	L	O	T	T	E	R	M	R	A	S	L	M
M	N	N	C	N	I	D	E	I	G	A	N	C	P	A
O	O	U	E	L	S	H	T	V	E	R	A	O	A	G
N	N	S	A	T	P	E	I	N	I	Z	D	P	R	N
O	S	T	A	S	F	E	G	A	P	S	A	E	T	I
R	O	T	O	I	W	S	E	T	U	N	I	M	I	T
T	E	M	L	I	G	H	T	H	G	I	R	B	A	U
S	T	N	E	M	N	O	R	I	V	N	E	S	L	D
A	N	N	U	L	A	R	G	N	I	T	I	C	X	E

© 2024 Andrews McMeel Syndicate, Inc. www.wonderword.com 4/8
Amaze, Annular, Astronomer, Atmosphere, Bright, Canada, Cloud, Coast, Duration, Environment, Exciting, Filter, Lifetime, Light, Magnitude, Minutes, Moon, Nature, North America, Partial, Phenomenon, Planet, Rare, Season, Space, Spectacle, Sunglasses, Telescope, Totality, Umbra, United States, Universe, View, Visible, Witness
Last Friday's Answer: Crunch
To purchase WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Lakers move into 8th place in the West after beating Cavs

LOS ANGELES (AP)—D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points, LeBron James added 24 and the Los Angeles Lakers extended their winning streak to four with a 116-97 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday, moving into eighth place in the Western Conference.

Anthony Davis added 22 points and 13 rebounds in the Lakers' (45-33) ninth win in 10 games.

Darius Garland scored 26 points for Cleveland and Caris LeVert had 21 off the bench. The Cavaliers (46-32) remained in third place in the East but have dropped two straight and three of their last four.

Russell had six 3-pointers, including five in the first half, when his 23 points helped the Lakers take a nine-point lead.

James improved to 18-4 against his former team, where he played for 11 seasons in two different stints. He had a pair of alley-oop dunks against the team he led to its lone NBA title in 2016.

Davis scored 11 points in the third quarter, including nine during a 19-0 run. Cleveland led 71-67 before the Lakers regained control during a four-minute span.

NETS 113, PISTON 103

NEW YORK (AP)—Cam Thomas scored 32 points and Brooklyn rallied with a big fourth quarter for a victory over Detroit.

Dennis Schroder added 24 points and Noah Clowney had 17 off the bench for the Nets, who their second straight game. Mikal Bridges chipped in with 13 and Jalen Wilson finished with 10.

Detroit dropped to 13-65 with its fourth straight loss. Chimezie Metu led the Pistons



Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis (3) grabs a rebound against Cleveland Cavaliers guard Darius Garland (10) during the second half of an NBA basketball game Saturday, April 6, 2024, in Los Angeles.

with 20 points. Marcus Sasser finished with 18 and Jaden Ivey added 16.

Troy Brown Jr. had 15 and Jaylen Nowell contributed 12 off the bench for the Pistons, who led by 19 and were still ahead 83-75 after three before the Nets outscored them 38-20 over the final 12 minutes.

Trailing 99-91 after Schroder knocked down a jumper with 6:28 remaining, the Nets used a 22-4 run to clinch the win.

76ERS 116, GRIZZLIES 96

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Joel Embiid had 30 points and 12 rebounds in just 23 minutes, Kelly Oubre Jr. added 17 points and Philadelphia pulled within a half-game of seventh place in the Eastern Conference by beating short-

handed Memphis.

Embiid was 9 of 13 from the floor, making both of his 3-point attempts. He checked out with seven minutes left in the third quarter and coach Nick Nurse saw no reason for him to return as Philadelphia maintained a comfortable lead in the second half en route to its fourth consecutive win.

Scotty Pippen Jr. led the Grizzlies with 24 points, while GG Jackson finished with 17. Jordan Goodwin added 15 for Memphis, which had its three-game winning streak snapped. Maozinha Pereira had 13 points and 11 rebounds.

The Grizzlies had little answer for Embiid in the first half. The Philadelphia center collected 22 points on 7-of-10 shooting from the floor, plus 10 rebounds as the 76ers built a 62-42 halftime advantage.

Memphis was just 2 of 12 from outside the arc, part of the Grizzlies shooting 37%.

Philadelphia outscored Memphis 34-19 in the second quarter and the Grizzlies could make little headway to start the

second half, never cutting the deficit into single digits.

NUGGETS 142, HAWKS 110

DENVER (AP)—Jamal Murray returned to Denver's lineup

after missing seven games with a strained right knee and scored 16 points over 21 minutes in a clobbering of.

Nikola Jokic recorded his 25th triple-double of the season even as he took the fourth quarter off and Kentavious Caldwell-Pope added a season-high 24 points, propelling the Nuggets (54-24) into sole possession of first place in the Western Conference, a half-game ahead of the idle Minnesota Timberwolves, who visit Denver on Wednesday night.

Clint Capela led Atlanta with 19 points.

The showdown between the Wolves and Nuggets could decide the top seed in the West, although Oklahoma City is just a game back. Nuggets coach Michael Malone has insisted he's more concerned with his team's health than its seeding, but Denver did parley the No. 1 seed a year ago into a 10-1 home record in the playoffs on its way to winning the franchise's first NBA championship.

Jokic had 19 points, 14 boards and 11 assists, while Murray added six assists in his first appearance since getting hurt March 21 in a game against the New York Knicks.

NBA fines 76ers \$100,000 for violating injury reporting rules in the game Embiid returned

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA fined the Philadelphia 76ers \$100,000 on Friday for violating injury reporting rules by initially listing Joel Embiid as out in a game he later played in.

Embiid returned from a 29-game absence after left knee surgery Tuesday night, leading the 76ers to a 109-105 victory over the Oklahoma City Thunder. That

came after the 76ers had listed him as being out in the initial injury report. He was upgraded to questionable by late afternoon.

Teams are required to list the status of a player whose participation may be affected by injury by 5 p.m. local time the day before a game, unless they are on a back-to-back. The injury report is then updated throughout the

course of the day.

The league said it took into account the 76ers' history of fines for violating the injury reporting rules. The Sixers had been penalized \$75,000 on Feb. 1 for not accurately including Embiid on their report in a timely matter for their game against Denver on Jan. 27, just before he sustained a torn meniscus that required surgery.

Vince Carter, Chauncey Billups headline 13-member class for Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame



GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Vince Carter wowed the basketball world with his high-flying dunks for more than two decades. Chauncey Billups was a clutch guard and Finals MVP for the Detroit Pistons.

Two icons from the 2000s era of basketball are headed to the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame.

Tears welled in Carter's eyes multiple times Saturday as he discussed what the honor means to him.

"I think that's where the emotion comes from," Carter said. "I have such a great appreciation for what this is and who is in the Hall of Fame. I get a chance to be a part of that. Say what you want,

believe what you may, but there were some days I never thought I was on this level."

Then he grinned. "But they allowed me in, so I'm going to take it."

The 13-member class announced Saturday also includes former Lakers, Grizzlies and Warriors executive Jerry West, who has already been inducted as a player and as a member of the 1960 U.S. Olympic team. Also in the class: players Seimone Augustus, Michael Cooper, Walter Davis, Dick Barnett and Michele Timms, coaches Charles Smith, Harley Redin and Bo Ryan, broadcaster/coach Doug Collins and owner Herb Simon.

The 2024 class will be enshrined in the Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachu-

setts, in August.

"It's mindblowing for me," Carter said. "I enjoyed playing the game of basketball every day. I'm just overjoyed."

Carter, 47, was an eight-time All-Star and the NBA Rookie of the Year in 1999 with the Toronto Raptors. He had the longest career in NBA history, playing 22 seasons for the Raptors, Nets, Mavericks, Grizzlies, Hawks, Magic, Kings and Suns, and finished with 25,728 career points, good for 21st in league history.

He played in college at North Carolina under coach Dean Smith.

The 6-foot-6 guard's longevity in the game was legendary and he was a useful player deep into his 40s, hanging with players less

than half his age. He averaged five points over 60 games at age 43 with the Hawks in his final season.

Billups, 47, was a five-time All-Star and won an NBA championship with the Detroit Pistons in 2004. He was also the MVP of the Finals that season and is now the coach of the Portland Trail Blazers.

Billups was the third overall pick in the 1997 draft by the Boston Celtics, but his pro career was a little slow to develop. He eventually found a home in Detroit, making his first All-Star team in his ninth season.

Part of a balanced Pistons team that included Richard Hamilton, Rasheed Wallace, Tayshaun Prince and Ben Wallace, Billups averaged

21 points and 5.2 assists per game in the 2004 Finals. They beat the Lakers in five games for the title.

Ben Wallace was inducted into the Hall in 2021. Now Billups joins him.

"We all came, watched (Ben's) induction, and we all felt like we were already in, because he was in," Billups said. "That's how we played. That's who we were. I'm just the next one up."

The 85-year-old West was inducted as a contributor. The 14-time All-Star was inducted as a player in 1980. He spent more than 20 years as an executive for the Los Angeles Lakers—helping the franchise win eight championships over a span from 1980 to 2002—and was also the general manager for the Memphis Grizzlies and

an executive with the Golden State Warriors.

Augustus, 39, was a four-time WNBA champion with the Minnesota Lynx. The 6-foot guard played in college at LSU, helping the program to three Final Fours. She's 13th in WNBA history with 6,005 career points.

Cooper, 67, was a five-time NBA champion for the Showtime Lakers in the 1980s. Teammates with stars like Magic Johnson and James Worthy, Cooper did his best work on the defensive end of the court, making eight All-Defensive teams.

Davis, who died in 2023, is the all-time leading scorer in Phoenix Suns history with 15,666 points. He was the 1978 Rookie of the Year and made six All-Star teams.

Marlins drop 9th consecutive game to start season, falling to Cardinals



ST. LOUIS
(AP)—The

winless Miami Marlins, who are off to the worst start in the 33-year history of the franchise, dropped their ninth consecutive game on Saturday, losing 3-1 to Steve Matz and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Iván Herrera and Brendan Donovan each had two hits for St. Louis. Jordan Walker contributed an RBI double.

Matz (2-0) surrendered four hits in five scoreless innings. Ryan Helsley pitched the ninth for his third save.

Miami's Trevor Rogers (0-1) was charged with three runs, two earned, and five hits in five innings. He struck out three and walked three.

The 0-9 Marlins are the only winless team in baseball. The New York Mets, who dropped their first seven games, beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 on Thursday for their first win.

Baltimore holds the big league record with 21 losses to start the 1988 season.

Miami has lost 10 consecutive games dating to last season. It has dropped 13 of its last 16 at Busch Stadium.

ATHLETICS 4, TIGERS 0

DETROIT (AP)—Brent Rooker homered, Paul Blackburn pitched six sparkling innings and Oakland earned their second win of the season, beating Detroit.

Zack Gelof walked and scored three times as Oakland ended a four-game losing streak.

Detroit only got two runners to second base in the first seven innings. The Tigers are off to a 6-2 start, but their lineup has been shaky so far.

Blackburn (1-0) continued his strong start to the season. The right-hander allowed three hits, struck out four and walked none.

GUARDIANS 3, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—David Fry hit a three-run homer and seven Cleveland pitchers combined on a two-hitter, helping them beat Minnesota.

On a day when they lost ace Shane Bieber to season-ending elbow surgery, the Guardians showcased their pitching depth while improving to 7-2 this season.

Carlos Carrasco worked three innings of one-run ball. The 37-year-old right-hander struck out six and walked three before he was pulled after 78 pitches.

Nick Sandlin (2-0), Cade Smith, Hunter Gaddis, Scott Barlow, Tyler Beede and Emmanuel Clase combined to blank Minnesota over the final six innings. Clase worked the ninth for his fourth save.



St. Louis Cardinals' Nolan Gorman, left, is tagged out at home by Miami Marlins catcher Nick Fortes (4) as home plate umpire Jeremie Rehak watches the play during the fourth inning of a baseball game Saturday, April 6, 2024, in St. Louis.

PHILLIES 5, NATIONALS 2

WASHINGTON (AP)—J.T. Realmuto followed an intentional walk to Bryce Harper by driving a hanging curveball over the wall for a three-run homer, helping Philadelphia beat Washington.

Phillies starter Ranger Suárez (1-0) allowed two runs and four hits in six innings. José Alvarado, Philadelphia's fourth pitcher, threw the ninth for his second save in two chances this season.

Realmuto, who singled and scored on Alec Bohm's triple in the first, took advantage of a poor 0-2 pitch by Jake Irvin (0-1) to give the Phillies a 4-0 lead in the third inning. Trea Turner got things going with a two-out double, before two-time NL MVP Harper was put aboard.

REDS 9, METS 6

CINCINNATI (AP)—Spencer Steer hit a three-run homer during Cincinnati's five-run eighth inning, helping them knock off the New York Mets.

Cincinnati trailed 5-4 before Elly De La Cruz singled home pinch-runner Bubba Thompson. Steer followed with a drive to left-center against Yohan Ramírez (0-1) for his third homer of the season.

The Reds sent 10 batters to the plate in the eighth. Ramírez threw 53 pitches in two innings.

The Mets used four relievers in Friday's win, and they were without Edwin Díaz after the closer pitched each of the previous two days.

DODGERS 4, CUBS 1

CHICAGO (AP)—Yoshinobu Yamamoto pitched out of two early jams in five scoreless innings for his first career major league victory, Max Muncy hit a two-run single and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the Chicago Cubs.

Shohei Ohtani had two hits and reached base three times to help the Dodgers improve to 8-3 with their

fifth victory in six games.

There was a standing-room-only crowd to see the Cubs play Ohtani and the Dodgers on a cool, sunny, late afternoon game.

PIRATES 5, ORIOLES 4, 11 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Oneil Cruz singled home the winning run in the 11th inning to give Pittsburgh a victory over Baltimore.

Cruz drove in automatic runner Henry Davis from second base. Orioles center fielder Cedric Mullins temporarily kept the game tied when he made a diving catch of Ke'Bryan Hayes' line drive, but Cruz followed with a single to right off Jonathan Heasley (0-1).

Josh Fleming (1-0) retired the side in order in the top of the 10th. Joey Bart homered in his first at-bat with the Pirates, and starter Bailey Falter pitched six shutout innings.

Both teams scored a run in the 10th inning. Adley Rutschman hit a sacrifice fly for Baltimore, and Edward Olivares drew a bases-loaded walk with none out for Pittsburgh. But the Pirates failed to push across another run in the 10th.

ROYALS 3, WHITE SOX 0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Michael Wacha threw seven innings of two-hit ball and MJ Melendez launched a two-run homer as Kansas City Royals beat the slumping Chicago White Sox.

Wacha (1-0) struck out eight, walked one and allowed just one runner past first base. Royals pitchers have eight quality starts, most in the majors.

Melendez drove Chris Flexen's first-pitch fastball to straightaway center field to snap a scoreless tie in the seventh. Maikel Garcia knocked in another run with an infield single as Kansas City batted around in the inning.

Flexen (0-2) permitted a pair

of singles to start the first, then retired 12 straight. He gave up three runs on six hits and two walks in 6 1/3 innings, his longest outing since July 4, 2022.

Both starters worked quickly; the first five innings were played in 57 minutes.

MARINERS 5, BREWERS 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Jorge Polanco and Luis Urias homered, helping Bryce Miller and Seattle beat Milwaukee.

Miller (1-1) struck out seven in seven shutout innings. The right-hander allowed three hits and walked one, bouncing back nicely after he struggled in his first start of the season against the Red Sox.

Milwaukee scored three runs in the eighth on Jackson Chourio's two-run homer and a pinch-hit sacrifice fly by Rhys Hoskins. But Trent Thornton escaped the jam when pinch-hitter Joey Ortiz bounced into a fielder's choice.

Urias hit a leadoff homer in the ninth and Andrés Muñoz got three outs for his second save.

BRAVES 9, DIAMONDBACKS 8

ATLANTA (AP)—Austin Riley had three hits, the last an eighth-inning single that drove in the go-ahead run, and Atlanta overcame a six-run, first-inning deficit to beat Arizona.

The Diamondbacks failed to hold a 6-0 lead after they blew a 5-2 advantage in Atlanta's 6-5 win in 10 innings Friday night.

Jarred Kelenic, who had three hits, led off the eighth with a double off Luis Frias (0-1) before scoring on a single to right field by Ronald Acuña Jr. to tie it at 8. Acuña moved to second on right fielder Jake McCarthy's throwing error and scored on Riley's single to give Atlanta the lead.

RANGERS 7, ASTROS 2

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Marcus Semien hit a tiebreak-

ing single, six Texas relievers limited Houston to three hits over 5 1/3 innings, and the Rangers overcame Corey Seager's two-run error to beat the Astros.

Seager was one of five consecutive Rangers with hits off Houston closer Ryan Pressly as the World Series champs broke open a close game with a four-run eighth.

The Rangers beat the Astros at home for a second night in a row after losing all three games at Globe Life Field while still winning last year's seven-game AL Championship Series between the Texas rivals.

The Astros, defending AL West champions with six division titles in the past seven years, dropped five games under .500 just nine games into the season.

YANKEES 9, BLUE JAYS 8

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Judge, Giancarlo Stanton and Anthony Rizzo homered, and the New York Yankees chased Kevin Gausman in the second inning of a victory over Toronto.

Judge and Stanton went deep in a three-run first against Gausman (0-1), and Rizzo added his first of the season in the fifth against Mitch White. Juan Soto had a pair of RBI singles as the Yankees opened a 9-2 lead by the sixth inning and Stanton had three hits after starting the season 3 for 24.

Luke Weaver (3-0) allowed three runs over two innings and became the major leagues' first three-game winner despite totaling only 5 2/3 innings over three outings.

Before a loud crowd of 42,250 on a rare Saturday night game in the Bronx, New York boosted its record to 7-2 and improved to 32-4 when Judge and Stanton homered in the same game, including the postseason.

PADRES 4, GIANTS 0

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—

Jurickson Profar hit an early grand slam and Michael King pitched seven sharp innings to lead San Diego to a victory over San Francisco.

Xander Bogaerts and Manny Machado singled in the first before Ha-Seong Kim walked to load the bases for Profar, whose drive landed just inside the right-field foul pole for his third career slam and first since April 10, 2022. It was San Diego's first grand slam of the season.

King (2-0) supplied the fourth straight quality start for the Padres, allowing four hits and one walk while striking out four. Acquired from the New York Yankees in December as part of the trade package for star slugger Juan Soto, the right-hander matched the longest outing of his career.

RAYS 8, ROCKIES 6

DENVER (AP)—Yandy Díaz hit a go-ahead two-run single to cap a five-run eighth inning and Tampa Bay rallied to beat Colorado.

The Rays overcame home runs by Ryan McMahon, Michael Toglia and Brenton Doyle in winning on the road for the first time this season.

Rockies starter Ryan Feltner, bidding for his first win since missing most of last season after his skull was fractured when he was struck in the head by a comebacker, struck out a career-high 10 batters in six innings and left with a 6-1 lead.

But the Rays rallied against the Rockies' bullpen. Ben Rortved hit a two-run double off Jake Bird in the seventh to pull the Rays to 6-3. Paredes, who had an RBI single in the first, then homered off Tyler Kinley to touch off the Rays' rally in the eighth that also featured Amed Rosario's tying RBI single and Díaz's go-ahead two-run single off reliever Justin Lawrence that shot past first baseman Toglia into right field.

ANGELS 2, RED SOX 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Rafael Devers' error at third base allowed the Angels to score two runs in the sixth inning, and Los Angeles snapped a five-game winning streak by Boston.

Reid Detmers (2-0) matched his career high with 12 strikeouts over six sharp innings for the Angels, who have won five of six. Four Los Angeles pitchers combined on a three-hitter, with Carlos Estévez working the ninth for his third save.

Jarren Duran had an early RBI single, but Boston didn't get a hit after the fourth. The Red Sox dropped to 6-3 on their season-opening West Coast trip.

CNMI to host NPJC this week

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
EDITOR



The CNMI will be hosting the renamed North Pacific Junior Championships this week at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.

A total of 25 of the islands' top 16-and-under tennis players will challenge the best from Guam, Palau, Nauru, and the Federated States of Micronesia during the six-day tourney organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and funded by the Oceania



Tennis Federation and International Tennis Federation.

Homegrown netters seeing



action in the boys and girls 16 are June Yu, Nason Wessel, Siwoo Lee, Henry Choi,

Kiwon Lee, Taher Shakir, Irin Chung, Hoo Wang, Han-nah Chae, and Anna Kwon. The boys and girls 14 division will have Ryan Choi, Ian Chae, Jihun Park, Matthew Hwang, Anne Lee, Lina Tsukagoshi, Vivian Chung, and Jenna Pascual.

Meanwhile, Michael Jeon, Daniel Kang, Matt Zhu, Seung-woo Lee, Stella Choi, Emma Lang, and Selina Chi will lead the charge in the boys and girls 12 age group.

Top junior netters Yu, Wang, Chung, and Anne Lee said they're all thrilled to face top-notch competition from across the ocean on home soil.

"I'm super thrilled and excited to play in the NPJC and

I love how it's our home court. I'm ready to show what I have practiced throughout the year and make the ticket to Fiji. Since this is my last year in the junior event, I'm going to try my best and make lots of memories with other players from different islands," said Wang.

"I am very excited and I am ready to play my matches," said Yu, a veteran of the Junior Davis Cup in Sri Lanka last March.

"I'm looking forward to all the teams and am really excited about this tournament this week," said Lee.

"I'm very excited to be competing against players from different countries. I think the NPJC and [Pacific Oceania Junior Championships]

are the tournaments that get me most excited every year," said Chung.

The CNMI junior netters' coaches in the 2024 North Pacific Junior Championships are Jeff Race, Colin Ramsey, and Moris Villanueva.

"This is our first international junior event since COVID-19 to host and we are very excited. I think our kids are going to do very well. They have trained hard and are well prepared," said Race.

Along with CNMI junior netters, Race expects 70 players from Guam, Palau, FSM, and Nauru to see action in the tourney, which used to be called North Pacific Regional Championships.

Bolleyballer-Z top Rocball elimination phase



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Quest and Border Control played game No. 45 of Rocball's 10-team round-robin league schedule of games last Friday, April 5. It was the last regular game of the year. The playoffs start Tuesday at the Mariana High School Gymnasium.

The elimination phase of the 41st Annual Rocball League ended at the Marianas High School Gymnasium last Friday, April 5. There were 10 teams registered to play in this

year's round-robin schedule.

In the final five games of play, the Aces upset Topshakaz, 37-35; Baddie-Z defeated Chagii Fahn, 53-38; Bolleyballerz had to go into



overtime to defeat Nesian Power by scoring a goal; Spicey Locals defeated Rizzlers, 46-23, and in the last regular game of the year, Quest scored a win over Border Control, 49-25.

In the ninth and final round of games, Rocball players collectively scored 68 2-point serves, seven 2-point back-court plays, and 13 3-point goals in addition to their court points.

The team that scored the most aces was the Spicey Locals with 14 2-point serves. Nesian Power scored the most 3-point plays with four goals in a game. The heavy hitter of Round 9 was Alex Kim of

Spicey Locals. Kim scored seven 2-point aces in the game against the Rizzlers. Jerome Manzon of Baddie-Z, the leading 3-point player of the league, scored another two goals in the game against Chagii Fahn.

The Bolleyballer-Z won first place with an 8-1 record. Topshakaz came in second place with a 6-3 record, Spicey Locals came in third with a 6-1, and Nesian Power came in fourth place with a 5-4 record. Topshakaz came in second place with the same win-loss record as the Spicey Locals because Topshakaz defeated the Spicey Locals during the regular season of games.

There was also a three-way tie for fourth place with Nesian Power, Team Quest, and Aces.

But Nesaian Power defeated each of those teams during the regular season of games to advance to the playoffs. The semifinal games scheduled for the week of April 8 through April 12 will start on Tuesday. Topshakaz and Spicey locals play on Tuesday, April 9, and the Bolleyballer-Z will play against the Nesaian Power on Wednesday, April 10. The semifinal games will be two-set games of 25 points per set.

The 2024 Rocball championship game will be a four-set game of 25 points per game and divided into two days of competition at 25 points per set. The teams will play two sets on Thursday, April 11, and two sets on Friday, April 12.

Chagii Fahn and Rizzlers completed the 2024 cast of the 41st Annual Rocball League and finished at the cellar with 2-7 and 0-8 win-loss marks, respectively. (PR)

NEW

From page 16

managed to finally get the ball in the net come the second quarter. The Prospects still had a sizeable lead though as Leon Duenas, Greg Ngotel, and Liam Wilson-Sablan kept the ball in play with their aggressiveness and great ball passing.

At the turn of the second half, Team Marianas' momentum picked up and got in arms' reach of the Prospects' lead.

Azzy Fatialofa's commanding presence on the court dwarfed the younger Prospects and took it upon herself to steal the lead with back-to-back field goals and a foul. By the end, the Prospects were stumped as the lead swung into Team Marianas' favor, 37-32.

Team Marianas held it together in the end despite a resurging Prospects led by Wilson-Sablan, and took advantage of multiple free plays at the charity stripe.

Kaia Travilla and Fatialofa led Team Marianas with their twin 11s, followed by Alegre and Irish Pagarao's 10 points. Prospects' Wilson-Sablan had the most points with 12, while

Daniel put up nine, and Duenas scored eight.

The other teams competing in the Michelob Ultra Cup are Akkari-Eet (1), Brothers, Lamesa, Shirley's, Team Marianas, Pegs, Saints, Akkari Ruuw (2), Bridge Capital and the defending champion Ol' Aces.

Results of Saturday and Sunday's games will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

New Chang Ming 108 – Foronda 21, Pastrana 18, Standish 12, Diwa 12, Ferrer 11, Broncano 8, Medina 8, Camacho 8, Bernardo 4, De Dios 4, Devero 2.

Lakay 31 – Macaraig 14, Daig 6, Camacho 5, Tamaya 2, Collage 2, Capalad 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-8, 61-14, 80-22, 108-31.

Team Marianas 51 – Travilla 11, Fatialofa 11, Alegre 10, Pagarao 10, Camacho 4, Younis 3, Simram 2.

Prospects 43 – Wilson-Sablan 12, Daniel 9, Duenas 8, Agulto 6, Ngotel 4, John 3, Manibusan 1.

Scoring by quarters: 1-11, 17-26, 37-32, 51-43.

SIS

From page 16

throw, 18U girls javelin throw.

ACS' Barbara Wang was first in the 18U girls 1,500 with a time of 6:24.64; second was teammate Emma Pang at 6:42.48; and third was also ACS' Lucy Hong at 6:51.27.

In the 14U boys 1,500m, ACS' Raffy Cai topped it at 4:57.94; second went to COVMS' Jacob Santos at 5:45.19; and third was Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's Frank Lumanlan at 5:47.51.

In the field events, ACS' Elim Huang was first in the 18U girls javelin throw at 22.92m; second was KHS' Ry'ahna Quitano at 17.85m; and third was ACS' Esther Zhao at 17.10m.

For Marianas High School

athletes, they topped the 18U boys 800m, 18U boys 1,500m, 18U boys long jump, and the 18U boys discus throw.

It was a very close finish in the 18U boys 800m first place at MHS' Cody Shimizu beat out ACS' Jireh Wang with a time of 2:14.31. Wang was a step behind with a time of 2:14.50. Third went to MHS' Pony Tang and ACS' James Fan at 2:21.

MHS' Michael Miller was first in the 18U boys 1,500m with a time of 4:42.71; second went to Wang at 4:49.55; and third was Fan at 4:51.38.

In field events, MHS' Mokyang Kim leaped the farthest in the long jump at 5.65m; second was KHS' Justin Camacho with a distance of 5.13m; and third was SIS' Sean Park at 4.84m. In the 18U boys discus throw, MHS' Dereck Ran-

gamar was first with a throw of 26.24m; second was KHS' Javin Camacho at 25.85; and third was Joab at 24.95.

In other results, GCA's Julian Taitano led the 18U boys shot put with a distance of 7.74m. He was followed by SIS' Casey Chambers with 8.74m, and third was SIS' Sui Yi with 8.65m.

GCA was also first in the U18 girls shot put as Azriel Fatialofa threw the farthest at 7.95m. ACS' Silvia Zucca was second with 7.18m, and teammate Esther Zhao was third with 6.4m.

In the 14U boys shot put, FMS' De'Anthony Aldan topped it with a distance of 8.2m; ACS' Daniel Yang was second with 7.5m, and COVMS' Gerard Naputi was third with 6.32m.

Aldan also bested the com-

petition in the 14U boys 800m with a time of 2:31.91. Teammate Keanu Villanueva was second at 2:37.97, and Yang was third at 2:41.51.

This year, the Public School System Athletics Program and Northern Marianas Athletics added a "qualifying distance" that must be met for student attempts to be measured in an effort to streamline some of their field events and get through all of the participants in a timely manner. Essentially, the organizers studied last year's qualifying distances for all genders/ages and used them to identify the qualifying distance.

The sponsors for the season are McDonald's of Saipan, PSS, Northern Marianas Sports Association, Department of Public Safety, Department of Fire & Emergency Medical Services, and Run Saipan.

PIC Sports, Entertainment, and Activities director Dennis Tababa thanked their partners Run Saipan, Department of Public Safety, and Department of Public Works.

He then thanked their sponsors E-Land Group, including PIC Saipan, Kensington Hotel Saipan, and Coral Ocean Resort, Triple J Saipan, Bridge Capital LLC., Marpac, Tan-Holdings, and Yaong Corp.

participated and showed their support toward our mission in providing compassionate, sustainable, innovative and accessible animal health care in our community with this extremely fun event!"

Over \$5,000 in prizes raffled out post-race including waterpark passes, lunch passes, brunch passes, PIC gym and waterpark memberships, and hotel stays.

OVER

From page 16

can. It is very remarkable how they show their dedication to the community with very limited resources that they have, mostly from their own pockets," said Castro of SHS.

"This type of love and care for the safety and betterment of the people in the community is what being human is about. PIC

Saipan supports these movements to give back the love and support to the people of CNMI. We are part of the community, and we, PIC Saipan, will continue to be mindful for the good of the majority," he said.

SHS' Ruby Ma thanked PIC for hosting the event and raising funds for the organization. "Thank you to PIC for hosting the event and benefiting us. Thank you to everyone who



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2024 Michelob Ultra Cup's New Chang Ming players pose for a group photo before the start of the league last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.



Lakers move into
8th place in the
West after beating
Cavs
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

CNMI to host
NPJC this week.

PAGE 15



16 MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS, ACS, MHS dominate athletics qualifiers



LEIGH GASES

Saipan International School's Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez topped the 18U girls 800m race on Meet 1 of the high school/middle school division in the NMA/PSS All-Schools Track & Field 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.



LEIGH GASES

Marianas High School's Cody Shimizu, right, is a step ahead of Agape Christian School's Jireh Wang for first place in the 18U boys 800m race on Meet 1 of the high school/middle school division in the NMA/PSS All-Schools Track & Field 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.



LEIGH GASES

Francisco M. Sablan Middle School's De'Anthony Aldan readies to launch a shot put and placed first during Meet 1 of the high school/middle school division in the NMA/PSS All-Schools Track & Field 2023-2024 last Wednesday at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

It's All Schools Track & Field season again and high school and middle school tore up the Oleai Sports Complex track and field on Meet 1 last Wednesday and Meet 2 last Saturday.



Fast and strong athletes from Saipan International School topped their respective heats in the 18U

girls 800m, 14U girls 800m, 14U girls 1,500m races, 18U boys javelin throw, 14U girls long jump, and 14U girls shot put throw.

Multi-sport athlete Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez led the way in the 18U girls 800m with

a first-place time of 2:39.2. Second was Agape Christian School's Mary Zhu at 2:56, and third place was ACS' Sunny Wang at 3:06.

SIS' Aubrey White topped the 14U girls 800m at 3:02.91; second was Faith Arriola who clocked in at 3:07.95; and third went to Kate Xu at 3:08.20. In the 14U girls 1,500m race, SIS swept the Top 3, with Addalee Taflinger in first at 5:58.56; second was Arriola at 6:35.82; and third went to Leilani Ruszala with a time of 6:52.03.

In the throws, SIS' Omari Joab threw the farthest in the

18U boys javelin with a best distance of 32.52m; second was Kagman High School's Anthony Kubo's throw of 32.11m; and third went to ACS' Jacob Wang at 31.64m.

SIS' Beatrice Gross jumped the farthest in the 14U girls

long jump at 3.20m; second was Ruszala at 3.09m; and third was ChaCha Ocean View Middle School's Pualani Dela Cruz at 3.06m.

In the 14U girls shot put throw, SIS' Zoe Rounan was first with a 6.45m throw, and

second was teammate Kate Manglona at 4.07m.

Meanwhile, Agape Christian School also started strong with first place finishes in the 18U girls 1,500m, 14U boys 1,500m, 18U girls discus

See SIS on Page 15

New Chang Ming and Team Marianas deals in Michelob, Pokka Cup opening

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The 2024 Michelob Ultra Cup (men's

open division) and Pokka Cup (women's/16U division) is underway, with New Chang Ming and Team Marianas dealing a winning hand in their respective divisions during the league's opening games last Friday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

New Chang Ming of the Ultra Cup made light work of Lakay in a blowout 108-31 game and set the tone for the season.

From the opening whistle, it was evident that New Chang Ming would take control of the game. Their starting five went on to put double-digit leads in the first half, all the while Lakay were taking their time to settle in.

By the end of the first half, New Chang Ming led by 47 points. At the start of the second half, it was clear that Lakay wouldn't be able



LEIGH GASES

Team Marianas' Yasmeen Younis goes for an off-balanced layup as she's defended by a Prospects player during the Pokka Cup opener at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium last Friday.

to catch up, and New Chang Ming continued to put the ball in the basket.

New Chang Ming's Daryll Foronda put up 21 markers, followed by Rodel Pastrana's 18, and Alex Standish and Su Diwa's 12 points each. Lakay's Jhax Macaraig was the only player in double digits with 14 points.

In the Pokka Cup, Team Marianas escaped the clutches

of youngsters in the Prospects team, 51-43.

The young guns of Prospects silenced the women of Team Marianas with a 11-1 first quarter. Only a foul shot by Madeleine Alegre whizzed past a dynamic Prospects team.

After a disappointing first showing by Team Marianas, they quickly regrouped and

See NEW on Page 15

Over 700 join PIC Hafa Adai 5K 2024



The colorful and always exciting Hafa Adai 5K Color Run by Pacific Islands Club Saipan had over 700 participants last Saturday from the course that started and ended at PIC in San Antonio.

It was untimed and everyone was a winner in the fun run that benefited the non-profit organization Saipan Human Society. They were founded in response to animal overpopulation and the need for veterinary services in the CNMI.

PIC Saipan SEA manager

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Reymark Castro said they chose to raise funds for SHS to help them with their mission in the community.

"Their passion and selflessness throughout these years has been very helpful to the CNMI, it is just right to help them in any way we

See OVER on Page 15



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the PIC Hafa Adai 5K Color Run 2024 run out of the starting line in an explosion of colors last Saturday morning in front of the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.